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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree with the
austerity measures being
proposed by the Fitial
administration?

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INSIDE



'Come Clean'

Days before Toyota's massive recall, colleagues warned: "We need to come clean."

BUSINESS...Page 21



Coup d' Etat

The opposition has seized Kyrgyzstan's government headquarters after deadly clashes.

WORLD...Page 25



'Insignificant'

Carla Bruni-Sarkozy dismisses rumors of infidelity by her and her husband, French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

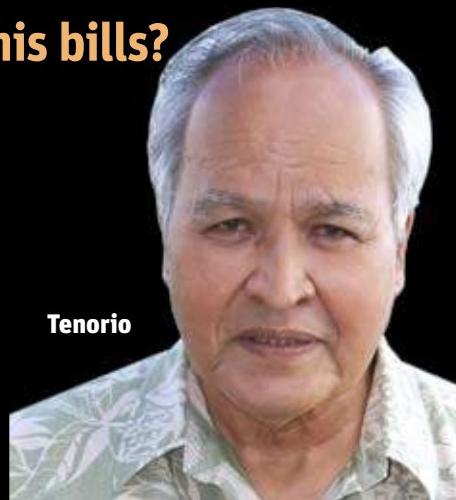
LIFE & STYLE...Page 27

Senate's \$3.2M subsistence costs in 9 years questioned

» Senator: Is Froilan forcing us to pass his bills?

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Public Auditor Mike Pai have questioned the monthly subsistence allowance of senators totaling over \$3.2 million from 2001 to 2010, but Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) said the speaker may be interfering again with Senate business. See \$3.2M on Page 4



Tenorio

IN LEGISLATURE'S
FIRST QUARTER:
80 bills introduced,
only one now a law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Between its inaugural session on Jan. 11 and March 31, the 29-member 17th Legislature introduced 80 bills, only one of which has so far been signed into law. Lawmakers said yesterday they're not really keeping track of the number but the importance of measures they introduced.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) in-
See 80 BILLS on Page 4

» Torres tops
House with 9,
Reyes leads
Senate with 6

Ex-lt. governor Borja seeks delegate post

Former Lt. Gov. Jesse Borja, second from left, turns in his letter of intent to run as the Democratic Party's official candidate for CNMI delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, to Democratic Party chair Jesse Torres, right, at the party headquarters in Oleai last night.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former lieutenant governor Jesus C. Borja announced yesterday his intention to run for delegate with the submission of a letter of intent seeking the endorsement of the local Democratic Party.

Borja, who described the present relationship between the Commonwealth and the U.S. government as strained, is convinced that he can make a difference if given the opportunity to represent the CNMI in the U.S. Congress.

He is also convinced he is the most qualified for the position based on his credentials, qualifications, and experience.

"I am highly qualified to fill the position of Washington delegate. In particu-

See BORJA on Page 4



**Biggest drug bust,
with \$118K worth
of 'ice' seized**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Authorities arrested Wednesday night a suspected major drug dealer with the seizure of 236.5 gross

grams of crystal meth with a street value of \$118,250 in a raid at a Pago house.

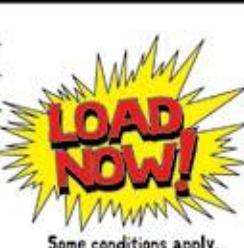
Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric F. David said it was

See BIGGEST on Page 4

**Schrack nominated as Finance chief; Fitial off island. PAGE 2
WASC sets one-on-one interview with NMC regents. PAGE 6**

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C.N.M.I.
5-Year Aquaculture
Development Plan



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services is inviting the public, CNMI Government Agencies, Non Governmental Organizations (NGO), and Private Businesses to a planning workshop to gather input and comments to the proposed CNMI 5-Year Aquaculture Development Plan as scheduled.

Saipan:

Date: April 26, 2010
Venue:
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Contact:
Michael M. Ogo at 234-5498 ext. 1728
michaelo@nmcnet.edu

Tinian:

Date: April 27, 2010
Venue: Flemings Restaurant
Time: 8:00am-5:00pm
Contact:
Lawrence Duponcheel at 433-0639
lawrence@nmcnet.edu

Rota:

Date: April 28, 2010
Venue: As Paris Restaurant
Time: 8:00am - 5:00pm
Contact:
Alejandro Badilles at 532-9513
alejandrob@nmcnet.edu

Seating is limited, so please contact above to reserve seating.

Local

Schrack named DoF chief; Fitial off island

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos nominated Robert "Bob" Schrack as Department of Finance secretary, a position that Inos held prior to his nomination and confirmation as the first appointed lieutenant governor in CNMI history.

Schrack's nomination now heads to the Senate for advice and consent.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, said yesterday that he received Inos' letter nominating Schrack on Tuesday and has yet to schedule a public hearing

on the appointment.

"The EAGI Committee is trying to work cooperatively with the Fitial administration, and we will schedule a hearing for Mr. Schrack, most probably after the public hearings on the austerity bill," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Schrack had been serving as the acting secretary of Finance when the post was vacated by Inos, when the Senate confirmed his nomination as lieutenant governor in May 2009.

Prior to Inos' confirmation as lieutenant governor, Schrack was serving as the special assistant to the Finance secretary.

"The governor and I are confident that Mr. Schrack is qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of this office and will be an asset

to our administration," Inos said in a letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota).

With the nomination of Schrack now at the Senate, the Fitial administration is awaiting hearing schedules for Schrack, Office of Personnel Management acting director Isidro K. Seman and acting resident executive for Indigenous Affairs Ignacio DLG. Demapan.

Fitial in Arizona

Inos is the acting governor because Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is currently off island.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that Fitial left Monday for Phoenix, Arizona to attend a Criminal Justice Planning Agency meeting.

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 Mona Menglo Sales Consultant Visit or call 234-5562	 2008 Nissan Altima S Coupe STOCK # 8C217606 \$20,995^{00*}	 2006 Nissan Pathfinder LE 4WD STOCK # 6C629879 \$23,995^{00*}

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NMC board formally OK's Cabrera's appointment, salary hike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents unanimously approved yesterday the salary adjustment for interim president Lorraine Cabrera. In the same closed-door meeting, all seven regents approved Cabrera's interim appointment.

Board chair Janet Han King said that Cabrera will remain as NMC's interim president until the issue surrounding the suspension of president Carmen Fernandez is resolved.

NMC is concurrently paying for two presidents after Cabrera's salary was retroactively adjusted on Jan. 12 to \$80,000 from her previous salary of

\$47,000 as director of the Adult Basic Education program.

Last month, some board members disagreed with retroactive adjustment, citing college policy. They also argued that the decision was made without the full board's action.

However, after more than an hour in executive session yesterday, all members voted to make

official Cabrera's salary adjustment, retroactive on Jan. 12.

King said the issue was "extensively" tackled at the meeting and part of the deliberation was Cabrera's qualification and credentials.

King earlier said that, although the "lump sum" for

Cabrera was released ahead of full board action, it was always the members' intention to meet and "formalize" the decision.

It was the board's personnel committee, headed by regent Andrew Orsini, that recommended the retroactive pay for

Worker files discrimination suit

A Bangladeshi worker has filed a discrimination lawsuit in federal court against his former employer who terminated his employment.

Abdul Halim filed the complaint against Taro Sue Corp. without a lawyer.

He asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Taro Sue Corp. to pay him damages, back wages, and court costs.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get comments from Taro Sue Corp.

Halim stated in the complaint that he began working for Taro Sue Corp.'s store along Middle Road in Garapan in September 2002 as a maintenance worker.

He said that during the entire period of employment, he was only allowed to work 40 hours or less per week, while Filipino employees were given preferential treatment.

"Filipino employees were

given preferential work schedule by the defendant and easy access to the management, unlike Bangladeshi employees," Halim said.

He said a month before his contract expired, his employer told him that they would not renew his employment contract.

"On information and belief, the defendant hired a non-Bangladeshi worker after Halim's termination," according to the complaint. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

KEVIN'S VIDEO II

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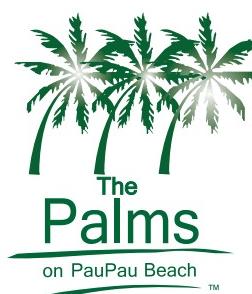
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BORJA*From Page 1*

lar, my legal education at Georgetown University, my experience as a justice of our Supreme Court, my experience as lieutenant governor, and my experience as a member of the NMI Commission on Federal Laws make me uniquely qualified to be the CNMI's Washington delegate," Borja's letter to the Democratic Party stated.

Party chair Jesse J. Torres received Borja's letter of intent.

Borja served as the island's lieutenant governor from 1994 to 1998. Before that, he was an associate justice at the CNMI Supreme Court from 1989 to 1993. Also tucked under his belt are

BIGGEST*From Page 1*

DPS' largest drug bust conducted without the assistance of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

David said that 3 grams of "ice" were found hidden outside the house of Jing Xin Xiao, a Chinese male, while a large amount of the drug was found concealed in a tin can in the kitchen.

A digital scale was also found, along with a white powdery and gel-like substance believed to be "ice."

In his report, detective Steven A. Castro said that Xiao, who also goes by the aliases "Hondan," "Tasi," and "Big Brother," has been a target of the local drug task force for nearly three months now.

Xiao was arrested for trafficking of a controlled substance, and illegal pos-

\$3.2M*From Page 1*

"When the 17th Senate took office in January, we took a proactive approach to address this in our rules. ... There's been misconception by other members that senators are receiving more than other members of the Legislature, on top of operational funds. We will be meeting with the public auditor and the attorney general to clear up this matter," Hofsneider said when asked for comments on the public auditor's letter to Tenorio.

Saipan Tribune called Tenorio on his mobile phone several times but there was no answer.

The March 29 letter, a copy of which was obtained by Saipan Tribune yesterday, was the result of a Feb. 22 meeting between the speaker and the public auditor on senators' subsistence allowances.

Other senators interviewed were perplexed as to why the House speaker appears to be interfering with the affairs of the Senate.

"Why would the speaker not look into his house? Why meddle with the Senate's affairs?" one of them said.

"I guess we have to pass all the bills that the speaker has introduced because he's after us senators. But at the same time, I have not seen any document or heard the Senate president meddling in the business of the House," Hofsneider said.

He added that Tinian and Rota senators are not getting more than they ought to get, just like other members of the House and Senate.

The House leadership, consisting of Covenant Party members and independents, has been pushing for the

the several years of legal practice on the islands.

In an interview yesterday, Borja described the Washington delegate position as "unique" in that the chosen candidate must know how to represent the islands to the national government.

The CNMI delegate to Congress is a non-voting position and is allowed only to vote in committee hearings.

For Borja, this is a "restricted" form of representation for the people of the CNMI. He vowed to "fight" for the Covenant between the CNMI and the federal government.

"The [delegate] must promote and preserve the Covenant because that document is the document that created and established the [CNMI's] political relationship with U.S.," he said.

session of a controlled substance.

At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for Xiao's temporary liberty. Preliminary hearing was set on April 15 at 9am.

Castro stated that a "cooperating defendant" had informed detectives on Tuesday that a Chinese man named Hondan has been selling "ice" in the Papago area.

The cooperating defendant told authorities that Hondan had been selling "ice" to him for a year and a half and that he would sometimes buy "ice" from the suspect once or twice every day for a week straight.

The last purchase was on March 31 when the cooperating defendant was able to buy \$350 worth of "ice." He said he would purchase 1.5 to 2 grams of "ice" from Hondan for each purchase.

passage in the Senate of a Fitial administration-backed austerity bill that will cut government work hours from 80 to 70 per pay period. Tenorio, a former governor, has also introduced two bills allowing casino operations on Saipan.

This is not the first time the 17th House and Senate leaderships have been at odds.

Tenorio earlier ordered Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes to vacate her post but Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said they should honor Reyes' contract, which will expire in September 2010. Tenorio has sought the court's help to resolve the matter.

OPA letter

Pai provided Tenorio with a list of all the names of senators from Rota, Tinian and Saipan receiving subsistence allowances of \$5,000 a month, covering the period from Oct. 1, 2001 to March 9, 2010.

The public auditor said the information was downloaded from the CNMI Department of Finance's financial management system and was not subjected to any review or analysis.

In his letter, Pai listed four Office of the Public Auditor findings and recommendations about an earlier report on lawmakers' subsistence allowance.

OPA said that while the authority for the monthly subsistence allowance is found in Senate rules and resolutions, the Constitution and Commonwealth law require allowances for expenses to be in the form of law, and that the CNMI is likely paying senators in excess of reasonable travel costs.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), in a separate interview, said

Borja said the CNMI's right to self-government must also be protected.

"That same Covenant indicated the commitment of the U.S. that it would raise the living standards of people in the CNMI," he added.

Borja described the present ties between the CNMI and the U.S. as "strained" as a result of the local government's insistence in fighting issues with the federal government rather than sitting and talking things over.

Borja is the fourth person to announce a bid to run for delegate this November. The others are Joseph Camacho, who will run under the Covenant party; former governor Juan N. Babauta, who is seeking the Republican Party's endorsement; and incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

Hondan allegedly keeps the "ice" in a house located along Betbena Drive in Papago, but buries the main stash of drugs at the back of the house, near some trees.

On Wednesday, customs and DPS officers conducted a buy-walk operation using the cooperating defendant to purchase \$350 worth of "ice."

Castro said a test of the crystalline substance sold by Hondan tuned up presumptive positive for "ice."

The biggest "ice" haul in the CNMI so far was conducted by a joint DEA and DPS team in August 2009. Four suppliers of "ice" were arrested and operatives recovered 1,021.4 grams of "ice" valued at \$510,000.

In August 2002, 370 grams of "ice" were seized when police searched a couple's residence on Saipan. It was not clear whether the DEA was involved in that operation.

the Senate rules were amended right after the 17th Senate came into office to ensure accountability of funds.

Among other things, the subsistence allowance of \$5,000 has been reduced to \$4,200, Manglona said.

Manglona said the Senate leadership would like to meet with Pai and Attorney General Edward Buckingham to discuss the public auditor's letter to the speaker.

The list provided by OPA also included the names of senators from Saipan, and not only those from Rota and Tinian.

Court, AG intervention

Pai said OPA provided the Senate with five recommendations, including introducing a legislation to grant the Senate authority for the subsistence allowance and its amount, to set the amount of the allowance, and to certify it as a public purpose.

He said the Senate did not adequately respond to this, as well as to the other recommendation requiring travelers to document their trips.

The public auditor said the Senate also did not agree with OPA's position that authority for the monthly subsistence allowance, created in the Senate rules, must be in the form of law.

"Instead, the Senate asserts that it has implied statutory authority to establish the subsistence allowance for its members by Senate rule or to submit travel vouchers documenting travel purpose and expenses," Pai told the House speaker.

The public auditor said "at this time, we deem that an opinion from the attorney general and/or from the CNMI courts may be the best means to clarify all the issues about the Senate allowances."

80 BILLS*From Page 1*

introduced the most number of bills at the House with nine, while Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) topped the list among senators with six bills.

Only Rep. Rafael S. Demapan's (Cov-Saipan) House Bill 17-25 or the Immigration Conformity Act of 2010 has so far been enacted into law. The Fitial administration-backed measure is now Public Law 17-1.

Two bills are also now on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk. These are Rep. Teresita A. Santos' (Ind-Rota) HB 17-8, which removes the three legislative days requirement for certain local bills, and Rep. Tony Sablan's (R-Saipan) HB 17-20, which allows for the lateral transfer of former Division of Immigration personnel to other government agencies or departments.

Of the 57 bills introduced in the House, eight were passed including the two that are now on the governor's desk, while five are now in the Senate. Most of the bills are with different committees for review.

Senators introduced 23 bills, 10 of which already passed the senators. Of the 10 passed, nine are now in the House while one is under review. The rest are still with different committees.

'Not necessarily better'

Torres, author of HB 17-47 or the Legalization of Marijuana Act of 2010, said he does not consider himself better than his colleagues for introducing nine bills in the first quarter of the year.

"I don't consider myself better than other members but I would say I work harder now. I am putting much attention to the issues," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Most of Torres' bills were recycled, meaning they were reintroduced after they failed to pass in previous legislatures.

They include his H.B. 17-7 or the Second Marianas Political and Economic Status Commission Act, which he has been introducing since the 8th Legislature; HB 17-4 or the Notary Public Act; and H.B. 17-38 or the Nuclear and Chemical-Free Zone Amendment Act of 2010.

"But my marijuana legalization bill is a new one. Nobody had introduced such bill," he said. The bill is now with the House Committee on Natural Resources for review.

He also introduced HB 17-30 or the Copper Trading Moratorium of 2010; HB 17-35 or the Animal Protection Act of 2010; HB 17-39 or the Postsecondary Education Amendment Act of 2010; HB 17-51, which is also the Copper Trading Moratorium of 2010; and HB 17-52 which seeks to expunge criminal records of certain individuals.

"I hope my colleagues will support my bills," he added.

Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb (R-Saipan) introduced six bills, including the first three to be introduced in the 17th House.

His HB 17-1 requires the transfer of pertinent documents from the Clerk of Court to the Health and Vital Statistics Office, while HB 17-2 is about the Managaha landing and user fee trust account. He also introduced HB 17-3 or the Parking Meter Act of 2008; HB 17-16 or the Board of Professional Licensing Amendments Act of 2010 repealer; and HBs 17-31 and 32, which seek special water rates for farmers and ranchers.

"It's more about quality, not quantity, especially revenue-generating bills not contradicting our social economic well being," Tebuteb said.

Reps. Eli D. Cabrera (R-Saipan) and Teresita Santos (Ind-Saipan) each introduced five bills.

Among the bills introduced by Cabrera were HB 17-6, which seeks to raise business license fees and HB 17-41, which seeks to name Northern Marianas College after former Governor Carlos C. Camacho.

Santos said she introduces bills based on the issues raised by the community that need to be addressed. Among the bills she introduced was HB 17-23, which seeks to earmark Marianas Public Land Trust revenues for the Rota Gaming Commission for personnel costs and for contract obligations for FYs 2011 and 2012.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan) introduced four bills, one of which was the old austerity bill or HB 17-22. But his new austerity measure, HB 17-45, passed the House and is now with the Senate.

Three bills each were introduced by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Joseph M. Palacios (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio, including the Saipan Casino Control Act of 2010.

Five House members introduced two bills each: Floor Leader George N. Camacho (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. Antonio Sablan (R-Saipan), Rep. Rafael S. Demapan (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan).

One bill each were introduced by Rep Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), and Rep. Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

Two members were not able to introduce bills in the first quarter: Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) and Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan).

At the Senate

Sen. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) ranked first among senators with six bills introduced, including SB 17-20 which seeks to temporarily suspend the mandatory driver education prerequisite. The bill is now at the House. He also introduced SBs 17-1, 2, 3, 15, and 19.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) introduced four bills, including SB 17-7 which amends the CNMI Honor Scholarship Program, and SBs 17-8, 12, and 16.

Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) and Sen. Ralph DLG. Torres (R-Saipan) each introduced three bills.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) and Senate Vice President Jude U. Hofsneider (R-Tinian) introduced two bills each.

Two other senators were not able to introduce bills during the period under review: Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo (R-Saipan) and Sen. Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Saipan).

ERRATUM

In the April 5, 2010 (Monday) issue, a page 2 story was titled, "House adopts resolution on revised \$137M budget for FY 2010." The word "adopts" should have been "introduces." Our apologies.

DPL Secretary Babauta officially sworn in

Oscar M. Babauta was officially sworn into office as secretary of the Department of Public Lands yesterday noon in front of the entire department staff.

Acting Gov. Eloy S. Inos

Govendo summons Manglona anew

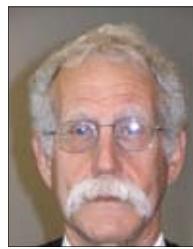
By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has summoned associate judge Ramona V. Manglona again to testify in the disciplinary proceedings against him in the CNMI Supreme Court.

Govendo issued the new summons on Monday after he and special ethics prosecutor Bruce A. Bradley agreed to reset the formal hearing to Oct. 15, 2010.

The summons was contained in a one-page document Govendo filed in the CNMI Supreme Court.

The judge first summoned Manglona in November 2009 to appear at the Supreme Court on Dec. 17, 2009, the original date of the hearing. Last January, the



Govendo

Manglona's complaint prompted Chief Justice Miguel Demapan to appoint retired Guam Superior Court judge Richard Benson to look into Manglona's complaint.

Benson recommended formal disciplinary proceedings against Govendo for professional misconduct. Govendo denied the alleged violations.

administered the swearing-in rites.

Babauta said he plans on continuing the projects initiated by his predecessor, John Delrosario Jr., particularly the Tinian West

Subdivision on Tinian and the new Finafa Homestead Subdivision on Rota.

Babauta is also in the beginning stages, with his technical staff, to assess the Northern Frontier Homestead Project

in the Northern Islands that was mandated by Gov. Benigno Fitial last December to open up parcels of land for homestead use.

The Tinian West Subdivision consists of over 400 lots and the

Finafa Homestead is made up of 143. Both subdivisions require significant road accessibility development.

"The highest concern for DPL is the lack of funding that is needed to continue land compensation efforts. We have an abundance of claims and a shortage of funds," said

Babauta.

He said the Fitial administration and DPL have held discussions to review all land claims.

"I want DPL to work together with the Governor's Office and find solutions to address the substantial amount of claims," said Babauta. (Walter J. Sutherland)

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Life in Motion

WASC sets one-on-one interview with NMC regents

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visiting team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges will have a one-on-one interview with each member of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents next week.

NMC interim president Loraine Cabrera reported this to

the board yesterday, adding that the WASC team will arrive on Saipan this Sunday for its two-day special visit on April 13 and 14.

Cabrera said the team wants to meet with all seven regents—board chair Janet King, vice chair Paz Younis, and members Andrew Orsini, Charles Cepeda, Malua Peter, Elaine Orilla,

and Frank Rabauliman.

The WASC team, Cabrera said, had informed her that each regent must be available for a 30-minute one-on-one meeting tentatively set on April 13, from 9am to 12pm.

WASC did not state the specific topics that will be discussed by the visiting team with board members.

Early this year, the commission informed NMC that it will send a team to the college due to the series of events happening at NMC, alluding to the January suspension of NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez and allegations of "false information" contained in NMC's midterm report.

The board suspended Fer-

nandez on Jan. 12, pending the results of twin investigations against her relating to alleged changing of student grades and personnel issues. Fernandez remains suspended to date. She is scheduled to face the board on Monday, a day prior to the team's visit.

King said the WASC visit is "expected."

"The schedule was given to us and...we will follow the schedule," she told *Saipan Tribune* after yesterday's meeting. "We will do whatever they ask. They will be here to assist us and we will extend our cooperation to them."

Meantime, regent Orsini expressed hesitation about participating in the 30-minute interview with the WASC team. He disagreed with the idea of regents facing the WASC team in their individual capacities, rather than as a full board.

The other board members, however, appeared willing to take part in the individual interviews.

Ex-convict in 'ice' trafficking, gun case inks plea bargain

An ex-convict facing charges in federal court for trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" and illegal possession of guns has agreed to plead guilty in exchange for a 30-month prison term.

Roque S. Norita, 41, and counsel Bruce Berline signed a plea agreement yesterday with the U.S. government, represented by assistant U.S. attorney James Benedetto.

The change of plea hearing was set for today, Friday, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Pursuant to the plea agreement, the U.S. government will accept Norita's guilty plea to possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, and possession of a firearm by a prohibited person in a separate case.

According to the plea agreement, Norita was caught with less than 250 mgs of "ice" on Feb. 19, 2009. In March or April 2009, he traded an Armalite .223 caliber rifle for "ice."

He also possessed a Japanese-manufactured Arisaka rifle dating from circa 1940 and a Colt AR15 .223 rifle.

Norita had been convicted in the Superior Court of manslaughter and was sentenced to 10 years in prison. His conviction barred him from possessing any firearms. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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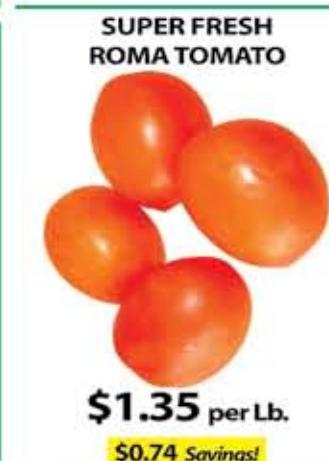
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11 WIA participants end training at NMC

The Northern Marianas College recently recognized 11 individuals from the Workforce Investment Agency who successfully completed courses in the fields of customer service and computer literacy through the Community Development Institute. The 11 participants were the sixth group from WIA to be awarded certificates of competence by CDI.

These courses included "How to Use Word Processing Ap-

plications," "Creating Digital Presentations," "Time Management," "Communication in the Workplace," "Work Etiquette Training," and other course programs that are designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills. The courses are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

"The courses are designed to

meet the needs of people in the community looking to improve their skills in order to advance professionally," said Felicitas "Tee" Abraham, dean of Community Programs and Services. "The course programs also serve to benefit the CNMI's overall workforce and will contribute to future economic growth."

WIA is a federal program that is designed to meet the needs of businesses, job seekers, and others who want to further their careers through assistance in employment and education training. After completing the courses at NMC, many of the participants are referred to businesses and agencies in both the public and private sector for job interviews, and possibly job placement as work trainees. This is facilitated by both WIA and the Work Experience Program.

CDI is a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services that has been continually offering a range of specialized academic

courses, non-traditional courses, customized training, outreach and extended program services, personal enrichment, and community-based learning that are accessible and affordable to members in the community.

For more information, visit the CDI Office at the NMC As Terlaje campus in Building P, or contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1010, e-mail Les Ogumoro-Uludong at leso@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

Eucon sets first classical music concert in April

Eucon International College will be hosting its first Classical Music Concert tomorrow night, April 10, at 6pm at the Eucon Auditorium. The concert will feature variations of Western and Chinese forms of classical music. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$5 or can be purchased in advance at the business office on the Eucon campus.

Along with a few group ensembles, the students will perform piano, trumpet, violin, trombone, and flute solos.

An opera exhibition will also be performed by special guest Dr. Yoh Shirato, who holds an undergraduate degree in Music with a focus in Opera, a doctorate in Theology, and two years of opera training in Japan.

The Eucon Classical Music Concert aims to provide quality music and help promote a better quality of life for its students and the community.

The Eucon International School was founded in 1998; in 2002 their college component was added to the establishment. In April 2009, Eucon became a fully accredited college.

Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei invites the public to attend the concert. (Walter Sutherland)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 9, 2001

Liberation Day celebration losses irk lawmakers

The Legislature ordered the Liberation Day Committee to submit a full accounting report of revenues, including total expenditure of programs and activities for the July 4th celebration. The Legislature said it will grant the \$70,000 appropriations requested by the Liberation Day Committee provided it is able to completely account for all the expenses incurred in the past July 4 celebrations. However, legislators were initially apprehensive whether or not to grant the Committee's funding request because of the consistent deficit suffered by the July 4 celebration body since 1994.

'We can't build houses where there are no utilities'

If by some miracle the Northern Islands would suddenly have electric power, safe running water, an efficient sewer system and paved roads in place, then and only then would the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. introduce housing assistance programs in the area. This seem to be the answer of NMHC chair Juan S. Tenorio when asked by Rep. William S. Torres on why the Northern Islands continue to be bereft of assistance from the Commonwealth's housing agency. "For NMHC to provide housing assistance programs to the people of the Northern Islands is not feasible at this time. The infrastructures are not in place in the Northern Islands to assist people with home ownership," Tenorio said in a letter addressed to the lawmaker.

April 9, 2002

Benavente forms 702 negotiating committee

Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente said he is now forming a five-man committee that would sit down with him during the upcoming Covenant 702 negotiations with the federal government. Besides himself, another member of the committee is Washington Representative Pete A. Tenorio, who urged the Lt. Governor Friday that they sit down as soon as possible to map out strategies and possible topics that would be taken up during the negotiations. "What we're doing right now is setting up the committee and, in fact, I've decided to go ahead and start meeting with the CNMI committee, with our groups here, and start looking at our list of priorities once again. Of course, those priorities are in place and have been adopted by the Legislature several years ago, putting together our needs for 702 funding," Benavente said.

Inconsistencies seen in lifting of salary caps

Although he did not elaborate, Rep. Chair Stanley T. Torres, who has been tasked to review the certifications on the lifting of the salary cap on some gubernatorial appointees, conceded yesterday that there were inconsistencies with the certifications. Torres, who is chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, told reporters that he will be coming out soon with his report on his findings after going over Gov. Juan N. Babauta's certifications on the lifting of the salary caps of some of his appointees. "At the outset, there are inconsistencies of some of the hiring due to the lifting of the cap. The Governor needs to reclassify those positions before hiring these people and informing the legislature about the lifting of the salary caps," said Torres.

April 9, 2003

Amendment proposed in MRC-govt settlement bill

The Chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs wants to amend the proposed Marine Revitalization Corp.-CNMI government settlement legislation to reflect an agreement that would benefit not only MRC president Anthony Pellegrino but also MRC's creditors. Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero views an inconsistency in House Bill 13-267, saying the legislation appropriates \$800,000 as initial payment to Pellegrino individually. Guerrero cited many parties that are challenging the bill because of this, one of them the Mobil Oil Marianas Inc.-an MRC creditor.

Will Babauta's '04 budget suffer the ax?

Stressing that one must heed realities, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider implied yesterday that the lower chamber may eventually pass a Fiscal Year 2004 budget that may be substantially lower than the \$228 million proposed by the Babauta administration. This is because the budget proposal, which is \$11-million higher than this current fiscal year's allotment, hinges much of the anticipated increase on an array of tax increases that have already been rejected by House members when it was presented to them previously.

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EDITORIAL

The Karzai conundrum

The increasingly erratic behavior of Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai has begun to cast doubt on President Barack Obama's hopes of pulling all U.S. troops out of that country by the middle of next year.

Part one of the Afghan game plan Obama announced Dec. 1 was to work with Mr. Karzai to establish an honest, credible national government. Part two called for the U.S.-led NATO coalition to clear and hold Taliban-held regions. Step three was to turn security over to a newly trained and trustworthy Afghan police and military force.

So far, Karzai's erratic behavior has made step one an abject failure. Step two is working, as U.S. troops have run the Taliban out of the Helmand region of southern Afghanistan and soon will turn their attention to the enemy stronghold in Kandahar province. Step three is in grave doubt, as recent reports suggest the Afghan police may be all but useless as a security force.

Absent a way around Karzai, plus a major cultural and competence shift in the Afghan security forces, the odds are Obama will run for re-election in 2012 with Afghanistan around his neck.

"He says one thing in the morning and another in the afternoon. And he might mean both of them," is the way one Afghan lawmaker described Karzai to the Los Angeles Times.

Karzai has caused even professional diplomats like Peter Galbraith, a former United Nations envoy to Afghanistan, to drop diplomatic niceties. Galbraith told MSNBC on Tuesday, "He's prone to tirades. He can be very emotional, act impulsively. In fact, some of the palace insiders say he has a certain fondness for some of Afghanistan's most profitable exports."

Presumably, Galbraith was not referring to carpets.

Obama can't say he wasn't warned. Before he ramped up the U.S. troop presence last December, he received two memos from the U.S. ambassador in Kabul, retired Gen. Karl Eikenberry, warning the Karzai government was so corrupt sending more troops would be a mistake.

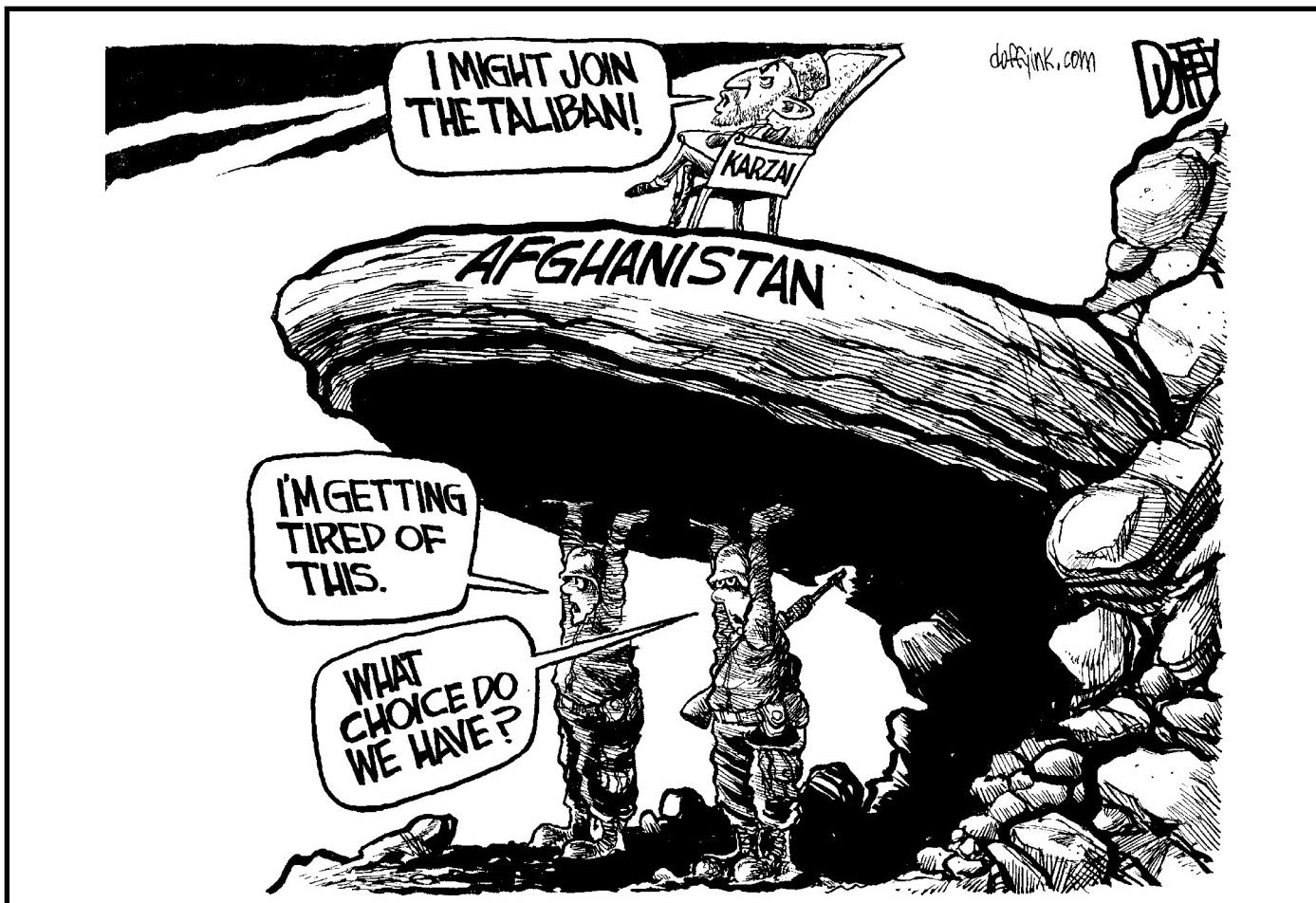
In recent weeks, Karzai has invited Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Kabul for talks. He accused the United States—and Galbraith in particular—of ginning up corruption in last August's presidential election to make him look bad.

Obama delivered the shape-up message personally in an unannounced visit to Kabul on March 28; Karzai was not amused. Last weekend he told Afghan lawmakers that "foreign meddling" was helping the Taliban, and reportedly joked that maybe he, too, would join the Taliban.

Two weeks ago, Newsweek magazine, in collaboration with the non-profit investigative journalism organization ProPublica, revealed that after eight years and \$6 billion in U.S. investment, the Afghan security forces still are incompetent and inept. Simply put, it's proving impossible to take a young man out of the seventh century and turn him into a 21st-century warrior.

Before sending U.S. troops into the heat and dust of the Kandahar spring, Mr. Obama should rethink his game plan—or hope Mr. Karzai really does join the Taliban.

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Anxiety: CNMI's worsening epidemic

Stress, anxiety, and depression: What it is and how to deal with it

First of a two-part series.

During the last several years in the CNMI, the stressors that people have been experiencing, have skyrocketed. The abysmal economy has negatively impacted all facets of life, from work to home. A large percentage of folks are out of work, with little hope of gaining employment. Many no longer care to read the news because of the overwhelming, angst-producing articles on crime, government corruption, reduction in pay coupled with an increase in the cost of goods, the impact of federalization and the uncertainty it brings to many, the breakdown in the CNMI's infrastructure, the drop in tourism and investments, and a host of other problems negatively impacting the community. For many, there seems to be no signs of improvement on the horizon. There is a resulting feeling of *hopelessness*. Because of these and other factors, anxiety in the CNMI has reached epidemic proportions.

Some stress in a person's life is productive and normal. Stress prompts us to accomplish our daily "duties." It motivates us to go shopping when we need to buy food, pick up the kids from school, go to work, seek shelter when it rains, and a myriad of other daily activities. Yet, too much stress can "overload the circuits," leading to anxiety, and even to depression.

It's interesting to note how various cultures deal (or not deal) with stress. This is of particular importance in the CNMI. For example, Chamorros, Filipinos, and many of the Asian cultures, do not openly discuss their stressors or feelings of anxiety. It's a subject often looked upon with "shame." The consequences are twofold: 1) When families, friends, or co-workers do not openly discuss these issues, adults (and more so, the children) do not recognize the *symptoms* of anxiety. They may feel like something is definitely wrong but there is no point of reference for understanding those perplexing feelings, which is often the first step in appropriately dealing with the stressors. 2) Holding inside these feelings can often make the situation worse, like a volcano with the building of pressure and no place to vent. Alcoholism, spousal and child abuse, increased crime, drugs, etc., can be related to increased stressors within a community, such as is happening in the CNMI.

So, the questions become: How do I know if I'm "stressed out"? Are there any signs that tell me if my "stress load" is too high? Can these *strange feelings* I'm having be a sign of anxiety, or even depression? Are there any blood tests I should take? Should I be taking vitamins? The answers to these questions (which I hear nearly daily in clinical practice) really depend on the individual practitioner and his (or her) experience, intuition, ability to ask the right questions, and even the practitioner's comfort level in dealing with anxiety and depression. As practitioners, we all have different approaches in dealing with stressors and anxiety among our patients. I tend to take a head on approach if I suspect a person's symptoms are due to anxiety. I have a handout that I had first put together years ago and

By BILL WEISS, PA-C

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bill Weiss is a physician's assistant at the Marianas Medical Center.



have subsequently revised to reflect social changes (the handout is a focused synopsis of this article you're reading). If I suspect my patient is suffering from, say, anxiety or depression, (as opposed to diabetes, hyperthyroidism, or some other medical problem) then I'll give the patient the handout and tell him (or her) to read only what's printed in "The Box" section of the handout.

"The Box" is a listing of the frequent signs and symptoms of anxiety. If I feel it's better for the patient to digest this information in private, I may leave the office and give him some "space" to think about what he's read.

But before I list the usual symptoms of anxiety, there is an interesting anecdotal story I've seen repeated in clinical practice over the years. Remember when I said that many cultures don't openly discuss—and hence *recognize*—anxiety? If I ask someone whether or not they feel anxious, "stressed out," or depressed, and they answer something like: "No, I feel fine. I'm never stressed out," I think to myself that they may be in for a rude awakening. Even people with the best "coping mechanisms" to stressors have a relatively high *stress load* if they are living in the CNMI these days. On top of the usual stress people have in their daily lives (work, kids, family issues, no relaxing time or vacations, etc.), we are *all* overwhelmed with the major stressors currently existing in the CNMI (which I partially listed near the beginning of this article). It's become a fact of life. And those very people who deny any stress are often the very ones who become *most enlightened* to the fact that they are very "stressed out" and exhibit many of the symptoms of anxiety.

So...what are these signs and symptoms? Listed below is what I have printed in "The Box" of my handout. Go ahead and take the test:

The frequent signs and symptoms of anxiety include:

- Chest pain (often poking or sharp), heart palpitations, rapid heart rate or "skipped" beats, the feeling of unexplained tension or vague pressure in your chest.
- Headaches, pain in the back of the neck and/or upper back.
- Problems with sleeping or eating; changes in usual sleeping or bowel habits.
- Feeling lonely, depressed, or lacking in self-worth.
- Tightness or "choking" in the throat or upper chest.

See ANXIETY on Page 14

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Here we go again...

Is the Commonwealth going to start worrying about \$4 gasoline again?

Well, at yesterday's price of around \$3.779 a gallon on Saipan, we're not far from it.

I sounded the alarm over oil prices in my Jan. 22 column, and I made a note to myself to raise the issue again if oil went up over 10 percent from that date. Well, it has. So, I am.

And, now that I'm raising the issue again, I'll poke you in the chest and mention that oil has doubled in price over the past year. Yikes!

I don't know what you'd do without me. Call me your economic guardian angel.

This is no mere blip, it's a doggone trend, so we might as well look at it. It's been rolling since 2002. Looking at prices over the past 20 years, I note that, from 1990 through 2002, oil was pretty much stable, generally hanging around \$20 a barrel or so; there were a few spikes in there, but they pretty much fell back to \$20, or a little higher, though sometimes lower.

That was such a stable price that many business assumptions, and consumer assumptions, be they explicit or implicit, were based on that price situation.

But in 2002, oil started ratcheting up in price. It's almost painful to watch the data, unless you have a secret oil well in a Marpi cave somehow, which I sort of doubt. By 2004, oil was sustaining

prices over \$40 a barrel. The close of 2005 saw it over \$60 a barrel. The close of 2006, still over \$60. Ready for 2007? It closed at about \$95 a barrel.

Then comes 2008: Oil goes over \$100. Then over \$110. Then over \$120. Then over \$130. Then over \$140. Then, the whole thing collapsed, closing out the year at around \$40.

And, since then, it's been pretty much up, up, up all over again. So here we are today, at around \$86. That's a far cry from the \$20 days, but I'm too lazy to adjust for inflation, which would change things a bit, but who cares?

Because I am polite, gentlemanly, and I don't put my elbows on the table, I'll disclose that some of my meager and mangy piggy bank gets involved in oil speculation, so I'm not hiding any secret agenda here.

I don't want to dwell on the big theoretical picture now, since most normal folks probably don't give a darn, but I'll devote a paragraph to it so I can finally land that Nobel prize I deserve:

I reject the dreamy notions that some sort of mythical recovery in the U.S. is bidding up the price of oil. I think that oil, somewhat like gold, may be attracting money as sort of a safe haven status as a prized commodity. If that's the case, then oil can zoom up, or fall down, based on capital that is either running scared or sitting smug. This can be a recipe for volatility, as speculation, not fundamentals,

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.



drives the oil market.

Back to the local scene: For all the other stuff going on in the CNMI economy, don't lose sight of the fact that much of our economic structure (including the insanely air-con intensive, uninsulated concrete homes) was based on cheap energy.

To use a fancy economic term, the demand for fuel is "inelastic," meaning that if prices go up, people can't curtail their consumption enough to compensate, at least in the near term. If you need to drive your car to work, then you need to full up the tank when it's empty, and you can't defer that expense. And I'll spare you any obvious, and painful, observations about your CUC (utility) bills. You just gotta' pay up, chump.

By contrast, people can, and do, defer, or avoid, buying a lot of other stuff, such as clothes, tools, books, computer hardware, or lavish dinners for newspaper columnists. Most of Saipan's merchants are therefore left competing for a smaller pool of available money.

Bottom line: If this trend continues much longer, the CNMI probably has another round of business consolidation coming up, as some financially marginal enterprises are nudged over the brink by the effects of higher fuel costs.

That's why I raised a warning on Jan. 22, and that's why I'm raising it again today. Hey, it's what guardian angels do, and it's a good thing I have these vestal white wings, since I damned sure can't afford to drive anywhere.

Edge of the lagoon

Swimming along the southern end of *Lagunan Chalan Kanoa* abut the promontory of *Puntan Agingan* last week, I swam into a sandy shore clam about 2 inches-plus in diameter that I would expect to see in one of the Northern Islands but not in the Saipan lagoon. It looked fresh, with nary a crusted soil or salt in its body, rounder and heavier than any of the algae-crusted uninhabited ones lying on the silted lagoon floor.

I took the clam to one of the fishers casting a line into the water by the breakwater rocks as the tide was receding into the sea, inquiring if there were any restrictions in taking any of the marine life in that part of the lagoon. He laughed and said: "Even if there were legal restrictions, do you think anyone would care? Besides, by the condition of the shell, it looks like it had just been swept over from the ocean into the lagoon."

I brought my prize clam home and kept it on saline so I could watch if the shellfish would open up. I would then take it to one of the island hotels' aquarium. Being one of those snorkelers who is satisfied by being simply a voyeur of the marine colony, I seldom touch any of the underwater critters, but the condition of the lagoon floor south of PIC looks like either World War II ended only yesterday, a devastating typhoon had just come through, or the lagoon has become so polluted that the silt on the bottom was there to stay forever. Any marine life taken out of the place into a cleaner habitat seemed like a charitable act.

After two days, the clam remained inert. I suspected, given the clean condition of the shell with the lucent quality of what seems to bond the bivalve together, that perhaps a tourist joker from the nearby resort took a shell on sale at the gift shop, glued it together and cast it into the waters to fool an unsuspecting beachcomber. Two more days, the clam still stayed closed with not even a bubble from the occupant, if there was any. I finally decided to see if it would consent to being added to lunch, if it was a live one, so I solemnly uttered my liberal heartfelt *pu hao yi zi* (begging your pardon) and dropped it into warm tea water. Lo, and behold, it opened up! It added to a hearty meal; the shell now sits on my window ledge as an island décor with rich orange exterior and white young coconut-like interior.

I mentioned the clamshell to a local farmer/fisher acquaintance who spearfishes at night. He said that if I really wanted to go looking for shells, I should traverse the shallow waters behind Hopwood Junior High on low tide to the reef, and then walk the outer shoreline to Agingan Point. I did, or, tried to, but flip-flops did not get me very far into the promised shell heaven.

Having disposed of all my gear and belongings last year (when I thought my degenerative cervical spondylosis was going to make me bid the island *sayonara*) including underwater rubber footwear (my unused kayak ripped off at the STaRPO office in CK would have come in handy), I decided to wear my Beach Road pathway walking shoes. The China-made footwear lasted an hour before the glue started coming undone. It was just as well because the walk on the reef (I could not locate a sandy shore on the sea side beyond the lagoon) was a consummate act of balancing. I must have uttered *pu hao yi zi* a thousand times as I tried to step on solid rock so as not to break any coral, but I was not that successful. By then, I was convinced I was consigned to the ecologists' hell!

The sight of the corals was just breathtaking, a picture like those of travel magazines of the Great Barrier Reef Down Under, al-

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



though I was obviously not the first one to crack the corals off their stem. There are even human-made channels to accommodate boats, which left a swath of devastated reefs. Anyway, the promised "you can pick all the shells you want" was not to be. To be sure, there were shells of spiked mollusks and spiral cones that had long been divested of their original occupants, but they were encrusted with soil and salt, and occupied by bright red hermit crabs.

I did see an octopus for the taking trapped in a pool at low tide like those occasionally hawked by the CK Post Office but cephalopod salad is not one of my favorites. The cockles, cowries and cones I did expect to see were nowhere to be found. A four-inch puffer fish in another pool appeared like a colorful shell until I tried to pick it up; it abruptly slithered off my grasp. I was surprised at how tame it was, but I think it was just as equally surprised to see an intruder in her domain.

There were empty tridacna clamshells in the silted lagoon floor and I was pleasantly surprised to see a live one about 4 inches long embedded in one of the living "rocks" in the lagoon side. I wondered how long it would keep before one of our hungry island stragglers locate it and gleefully extract it from where it is nestled.

There were plenty of ceriths (inch-and-a-half long pointed gastropod seashells with serrated surface) no longer occupied by their original dwellers, and if gathered and cleaned, make for decorative seashells that tourists can take back to their homes.

It was, however, the discovery of a "colony" of spiked mollusks that made my venture to the edge of the lagoon worth the while. They were not actually with the corals; they were more clustered around a couple of coral/limestone outcropping inside the lagoon, and though their exterior was already encrusted with soil and salt, the original dwellers were still dwelling. With their spindly profile, with one whose spikes upturned to accommodate a comfortably nestled back riding sea cucumber, they would be easy picking for the next food scavenger. Since they were close to a resort, I wondered if the staff had put them in there from another location, to please snorkeling tourist. But they were located outside the lifeguarded swimming area for resort guests, so I guess our food gatherers just had not gotten to these mollusks, yet.

By the time I reached shore, the sole of my rubber shoes had unraveled. But the two-hour trek along the lagoon breakwater edge was quite an external journey into Mother Nature's wonder, and a rich solitary exercise for an aging contemplative soul.

I wished Lino Olopai and the Carolinian navigators still have the pedagogical structures to teach the young *Taotao tasi* the *Refaluwasch* navigational skills, and the requisite respect due the reefs' marine animate and inanimate dwellers, but the traditional pedagogy of chants around the bonfire had long gone cold with the north wind.

Letter to the Editor

Questions for NMC's King

Under Janet H. King, as chair of the Board of Regents, the Northern Marianas College has been operating under an unprecedented black curtain of secrecy. Board meetings are constantly subject to private executive sessions. The public is kept in the dark. Transparency in government at NMC has been compromised to the college's detriment. But important questions must still be asked. One question concerns the status of Janice Tenorio, the former dean of Student Services. What ever happened to this investigation? Is it true that the case was referred to the Attorney General's Office since November 2009 and an investigation began? This is very serious as it allegedly involves federal funding and Janice Tenorio's role as the director of Student Support Services and the dean of Student Services.

The public has a right to know whether Janet King has been communicating with Janice Tenorio for a while. If so, wouldn't it be improper conduct for the board chair to be communicating with a former employee who is under investigation?

Janice Tenorio has reportedly been seen on NMC campus to meet with Janet King. Can Janet King confirm this, or will she again decline comment for legal or political reasons? Has Janice Tenorio been seen meeting with Lorraine Cabrera? To some, it appears that Janice Tenorio is now friends with Janet King and has been helping Janet King against NMC president Fernandez. Is this true and is this the explanation for a possible cover up?

Well-placed sources believe the audit on Tenorio has been complete since January 2010, but Lorraine Cabrera is holding on to it. Is Lorraine Cabrera part of a cover up? What was her meeting with Janice Tenorio all about? Was Cabrera assuring Tenorio not to worry about the investigation—or was she offering Tenorio a job from her and Janet King? Is she getting a job offer for being on King's side?

If improper expenditures are confirmed, NMC stands to lose thousands of dollars of federal grant funds and may also lose the Student Support Services program. This possible cover up is what needs to be investigated. When is the Board of Regents going to see that the King needs to be removed before more damage is done? These are questions that urgently need to be answered, not refused, by Chairwoman King.

And, as stated by the students: "We need our president, not a King." Amen.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.

President, *Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 81
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 58
Beijing	Showers	▲ 57 ▼ 40
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 76 ▼ 64
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 81 ▼ 70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 52
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 93 ▼ 75
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 66 ▼ 57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 68
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Osaka	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 51
Paris	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 41
Pusan	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 52
Rome	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 47
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 52 ▼ 35
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Seoul	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 47

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:06 AM	Today	High Tide: 1.7 Feet
10:58 AM	Today	Low Tide: 1.0 Feet
3:55 PM	Today	High Tide: 1.4 Feet
10:48 PM	Today	Low Tide: 0.4 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM	Today	2:28 AM	2:17 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:31 PM	Saturday	3:04 AM	3:04 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:31 PM	Sunday	3:40 AM	3:51 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Monday	4:15 AM	4:38 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:31 PM	Tuesday	4:50 AM	5:26 PM

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■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

■ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

■ BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

■ SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM				GUAM-ROTA (ROP)			
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5	C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily	C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily	C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily	DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily	DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
0Z608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	0Z607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
0Z604	2:20am	6:10am	1	0Z605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	0Z603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
0Z606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	0Z603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6	CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
0Z604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN	0Z704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
0Z604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				via ICN
				0Z706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS
				0Z890/9606	10		

Letters to the Editor

Monument promises coming true

We're going to get a Marianas Trench Eco-Discovery Center! The *Saipan Tribune* and the *Marianas Variety* have both reported that \$220,000 has been set aside to "develop a process" for consulting the public regarding a visitors center for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

This is great news! Gov. Ben Fitial, Rep. Greg Sablan, the Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument, NOAA Office of Marine National Sanctuaries, and even President Barack Obama deserve much thanks. Although the Bush Administration promised a monument visitor center, it is the work of these individuals that is bringing the promises of the monument to fruition.

About a month ago, the Friends of the Marianas Trench

Monument got this ball rolling and wrote to both Gov. Fitial and Rep. Sablan asking them to work with NOAA to engage "the CNMI community to design a Mariana Trench Visitor Center." During the week that Agnes McPhetres and I spent in Washington, D.C. last February we identified funds already appropriated by Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama that could be used to design such a visitor center. All the governor or the congressman would have to do was to write to NOAA Office of Marine National Sanctuaries to request that the funds be used to design a visitor center.

The

Fitial Administration and NOAA have since come up with a work plan for developing a visitor center at the Old Japa-

See MONUMENT on Next Page

Democrat or what?

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Sablan includes the designation D-MP to his name. Does this mean the congressman is a Democrat? I am not sure, but the ballot in the last election showed he was an independent from Saipan. The Democratic Party of Saipan did not have a candidate for the congressio-

nal delegate seat. If something changed, then the people of the CNMI need an explanation. Or, is this just one of those acts of convenience on the part of the good congressman? It would be interesting to know.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanao, Saipan

Valrick Welch
via e-mail

I would like to comment on the decriminalize/legalize marijuana discussions. I think it is great that it is being discussed, and as long as the discussions focus on research based information, and the overall effects of changing current laws/policies, improved government will be the result.

The harmful effects of marijuana are well documented: loss of short term memory, loss of motivation, heart risk, cancer risk, danger to unborn children, and withdrawal effects (although less than smoking and drinking). The benefits include being helpful for glaucoma, cancer patients on chemo, and it can be used as a drug to help people off from more damaging drugs. I would suggest the following be considered before changing any laws:

- What information is available from other countries/states that have legalized or decriminalized marijuana, from both sides of the issue?
- How many more people would use marijuana if it were legal/decriminalized?
- How would the tax revenues/criminal justice system savings be used?
- Will the majority of CNMI residents be better off by changing the laws?

Valrick Welch
via e-mail



BAGONG BAYAN NA NAGTAGAGUYOD NG DEMOKRATIKONG IDEOLOHIYA AT LAYUNIN (BANDILA)

Iwagayway natin ang lahing Filipino. Suportahan at iboto!

BANDILA: Ito ay isang partylist organisasyon multi-sectoral na sumusulong sa mga adbokasya na pakikinabangan ng iba-ibang sektor ng lipunan at ito ay nakasaad sa salitang **HELP US!**

H – Health – Isusulong ang pagbigay tulong sa mga mahihirap na sektor upang magkaroon ng diskwento sa ospital ng gobyerno at maglaan ng pondo para sa libreng gamot at pagpapagamot.

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L – Livelihood Programs/Local Autonomy – Programa para magkaroon ng hanapbhay o pagkakakitaan; Patatagin ang gobyerno local;

P – Public Accountability – Isakatuparan ang kasabihang "Public Office is a public trust". Ang mga opisyales ng gobyerno ay dapat magkaroon ng pananagutan sa kanilang ginagawa;

U – Upliftment of Agricultural and Labor Sectors – Isulong ang mga patakaran na pagpapaangat ng sector pang agrikultura at paggawa; Tulong sa magsasaka; Walang kontraktwalisasyon;

S – Socialized Housing/Senior Citizens/Sports Excellence – Matatag na patakaran para sa murang pabahay; Karapatán at dagdag tulong para sa Senior Citizens; Isulong ang programa para maging maayos at matatag ang pambansang pampalakasan; at Tulong sa pambansang atleta.

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ANXIETY

From Page 10

- Difficulty concentrating.
- Fatigue: feeling tired all of the time and—at times—not even wanting to get out of bed.

- Not wanting to do the usual things one finds enjoyable (such as going to movies, spending time with your family and friends, or going out to eat). And, yes, even a decreased libido (or sexual drive) can be a sign of anxiety or depression.

- Feeling "dizzy" or light-headed.

- Unexplained tingling or numbness in the hands and feet (unless, of course, you're on winter vacation in Alaska).

- The feeling of shortness of breath, hyperventilating, or unexplained inability to "catch your breath."

- Various stomach ailments, such as cramping, feeling "bloated," intermittent diarrhea, intense gurgling in your intestines (in medical terms, this is called "borborygmi," for those of you with a fondness for esoteric medical terminology), a change in eating habits from your normal pattern: eating a lot more than usual, or having little

to-no desire to eat.

- Feeling "nervous, overly anxious, or having a vague sensation of not feeling right, or a general "discomfort." The feeling of being different than others.

- Easily angered. Overreacting to a given situation. Feeling "wound up." Easily "annoyed" with your family members or co-workers.

- Panic attacks may be associated with anxiety.

- The feeling of "being different" than your friends when you were growing up. Or the feeling of being "nervous" when you were younger. I see this occasionally among teens and it can be a predictor for future generalized anxiety. Adults who had these feelings when younger are oftentimes good candidates for long-term medication (we'll discuss that in Part Two).

For those folks having anxiety, they may feel only *some* of the above symptoms. But those symptoms can become intense, overriding, and adversely affect their daily life. There are other less common symptoms not mentioned above, which I've heard described over the years. In general, if someone is experiencing one symptom of anxiety, it is likely that they will recognize other symptoms on the list.

It's important to recognize that this is only a *starting point*. If you found that you are experiencing many of the symptoms listed, it is certainly likely that you are suffering from anxiety, depression, or some of both. Medical practitioners would be prudent in some situations to obtain lab tests to rule out such medical problems as thyroid dysfunction (too much or too little thyroid in your system), anemia, diabetes, and other lesser known diseases that might mimic some of the symptoms of anxiety and depression.

It is relatively common for a patient who suffers from anxiety to tell me that they have visited two or three other practitioners. The practitioners have ordered a battery of blood tests, X-rays, and EKG's. When everything turns up normal, their practitioner shows the person that "there is nothing wrong with you. Everything is perfect." I would disagree with that conclusion. At that point, I would surmise that the obvious diagnosis can *only* be anxiety and/or depression. And these, like any other medical problem (whether it's the flu, a broken arm, eczema, bronchitis, or a host of other disease states) must be treated appropriately and as a very real medical entity. And treatments are available.

So now the questions are: "What can I do about these weird symptoms now that my doc has diagnosed me with anxiety?" And "Why do I suffer from anxiety while my husband (or wife) does not, even though we have the same stressors?"

And that, ladies and gentleman, will be answered in Part Two of this series, where we'll review various treatments (both *non-drug*, as well as *medication* treatment modalities), discuss ways for improving coping mechanisms for the dealing of stress, and even see why some people suffer from anxiety, while others do not.

Thank you for taking the time to read about this epidemic afflicting so many of the folks living in the CNMI. Please feel free to pass on this information to family members, friends, and co-workers who may be exhibiting some of the above symptoms (and who may not even be aware that their stress load is high and they are suffering from anxiety or depression).

To be continued.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, not as individual medical advice. Readers should obtain their physician's advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations.

MONUMENT

From Page 13

nese Lighthouse on Navy Hill. This is wonderful news!

The Old Japanese Lighthouse is an excellent site for a visitor center because of its link to maritime history and its panoramic view of the Saipan Lagoon and Managaha. The Old Japanese Lighthouse is also on the National Registry of Historic Places, making its selection even more meaningful.

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who is helping the promises of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument come true.

**Angelo O'Connor
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ADVERTISING FEATURE

New learning center to open in Chalan Kiya

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new learning center offering families quality childcare services will open in Chalan Kiya on Saturday.

Saipan American Education Foundation School and Kids



Cove Learning Center, founded by Dr. Johnny Fong, is the expanded branch of the main center established in Nauru Building last year.

The SAEF Kids Cove Learning Center has been approved by the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to offer

daycare, preschool and kindergarten, core knowledge curriculum, tutoring, after-school care, and night care services.

The new daycare will have its grand opening on Saturday, followed by a weeklong open house from 10am to 4pm each day, Monday to Friday.

The center's program overview encourages a semi-structured program to allow for specific growth and individual freedom. The center's teachers set out specific goals for each day and the children are "led to"—not "made to"—take part in these activities.

The pre-school program also includes a separate curricula for children as they move through the preschool years: developing social awareness and positive self-concept; language development and reading readiness;



math readiness and science; physical development; and fine motor skill development.

Among the activities that will be offered under the pre-kindergarten program include physical development, language and reading readiness, math and science, music development, art development, and socio-emotional adjust-

ments and personal habits.

In these adjustment sessions, children will participate as part of a group and will accept consequences for his/her behavior. Through proper guidance, children will learn to develop increasing self-control and cooperative plays.

For the junior kindergarten program, the center aims to

help children work as a class to develop rules that will benefit them. They will also learn to develop an understanding of concepts about themselves, interacting with people and real objects, and seeking solutions to concrete problems.

The learning center will operate under the supervision of school director Lee Francia.

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Map showing location: **CHALAN KIYA DRIVE**, **ATLONG ST.**, **KULOT DI ROSA ST.**, **SAN JOSE**, **ANITA ST.**, **CHALAN KIYA**, **docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC**, **MAGAS SALON**, **TRENCH TECH**, **Miller LITE**, **SGH Saipan Grand Hotel**, **Another exciting offer from the Grand!**, **For inquiries please call 234-6601 ext. 301-302**.

For more information, call 234-8004 / 8005 / 8008

CNMI ARRA Office clears up 'misconceptions'

The CNMI ARRA Office issued a statement yesterday reportedly to "clear up certain misconceptions being portrayed to the public by officials regarding the handling of ARRA funding by its office."

The statement said that since its inception, the ARRA Office has spent countless hours working with individual local and federal agencies to ensure that all ARRA funding received is spent in a timely manner and in accordance with all federal and local guidelines.

ARRA Office Role

The CNMI ARRA Office is responsible for oversight of all ARRA funding awarded to the central government. The ARRA office communicates with federal agencies on latest changes and updates to guide-

lines for ARRA funding. The office then turns around and works with the individual local agency to ensure compliance.

Is the process working?

To date the ARRA Office has \$11 million of ARRA funding out to bid or already under contract, the statement said. An additional \$30 million will be put out to bid or placed under contract within the next few months for projects under the Division of Energy and Public School System which include, among many others:

- Parking and street light replacement to Light Emitting Diode, LED;
- Creation of LED crosswalks at certain schools;
- Lube oil and turbocharger retrofit to aid CUC;

■ Air-conditioning retrofits for the judicial and legislative buildings;

■ Laptops for the Public School System;

■ Interactive white boards for Saipan Southern High School; and

■ Video and related Equipment for Marianas High School.

The ARRA Office is also working with agencies to ensure that the community is reaping the benefits of ARRA funded programs such as the Weatherization and Appliance Rebate Programs as well as programs that will help improve the services provided to students such as Summer Professional Development Sessions, the Career Exploration, Guidance and Development Program, and the

School Improvement Project.

All of these opportunities and many more can be viewed at www.cnmiarra.net under the Opportunities Section.

"The CNMI ARRA Office has but one agenda and that is to ensure that all ARRA funding received is spent speedily and in compliance with all local and federal guidelines," said acting CNMI ARRA program manager Antonio Muna Jr.

"We are working hard to maximize the benefits of the various ARRA funding for the CNMI and its people. It is time to stop pointing fingers at others and start pointing it at ourselves. We must partner with one another and work together so that the ARRA funding is spent and the people of this community benefit," he added. (PR)

'Do not disconnect utility services to homes of terminally ill patients'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saiplantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Fredrick P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) wants to make a floor amendment on a Senate bill extending the grace period to 21 for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. residential customers to pay their bills.

Deleon Guerrero, who is still in Manila recuperating from his surgeries, said in a statement yesterday that he proposes to add Section "e" to Senate Bill 17-23, SD1 to give consideration to CUC customers with terminal illness and whose utility services are up for disconnection.

His proposed new section (e) reads: "CUC shall not disconnect services to a house if a terminally ill patient is residing", and CUC should help the head of the household with a payment plan affordable to the family or help refer the case to Karidat or other Social Service Providers."

Deleon Guerrero's father, former House Speaker Herman Deleon Guerrero, said his son told him to issue a statement about the proposed amend-

ment to help those in need. The younger Deleon Guerrero has been off-island for over a month now after undergoing two surgeries at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Manila. He is expected to be back in a week or so.

The father said the bill is not meant for his son's family, but for other families.

"The amendment will be made on the floor in a session where the bill is calendared or in a committee when the bill is referred to the appropriate committee," the lawmaker's office said. The House has yet to formally schedule its next session.

S.B. 17-23, SD1, introduced by Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), passed the Senate in March.

The bill extends by seven days the 14-day grace period for CUC residential customers to pay their utility bills. The bill also prohibits CUC from disconnecting utility services on a Friday and/or on the last workday of the week.

If the bill becomes law, the grace period will be increased to 21 days after the billing due date to pay utility services.

Tinian workshop on artificial swine insemination

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services is inviting the public to a workshop aimed at increasing awareness of artificial insemination. The workshop will start today, April

9, and will continue on to April 10 at the NMC Tinian campus, from 9am to 3pm in room F.

There will be two guest speakers: Dr. Allan Sabaldica, an animal scientist, and Capt. Ernest Torres, a certified cattle and swine artificial insemination technician.

For details about the workshop contact Percy Cing at 433-0657. (NMC)



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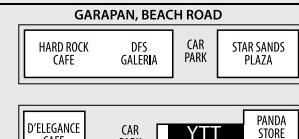
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7th Annual Sengebau Poetry Competition on Tuesday

The public is invited to attend the 7th Annual Valentine Sengebau Poetry Competition, to be held at the American Memorial Park's Visitors Center Theater on Tuesday evening, April 13, beginning at 6:30pm.

This event, sponsored by the NMI Council for the Humanities, honors the late Valentine Sengebau, a long-time Palauan resident of the commonwealth and well-known poet. It is a part of the council's efforts to build local literary capabilities among junior and senior high school students in the Commonwealth.

According to Council ex-

ecutive director Scott Russell, schools from Saipan, Tinian and Rota have selected poets to compete in a junior division (7th-8th grades) and senior division (9th-12th grades).

Competitors will address themes of culture, identity and change in the islands in a variety of styles including rhymed or free verse, sonnet or ode. Poets will be judged on two criteria: content and recital quality.

Poetry content will be judged by Robert Hunter, Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero and Catherine P. Anderson. The recitals will be scored by Laila Boyer, Leo Goode, and Angel Hocog.

First place finishers in both divisions will have their names inscribed on perpetual trophies that will be kept by the winning schools until next year's competition.

The top three finishers in each division will also receive cash prizes and certificates. Honorable mentions will receive certificates.

Last year's winners included Hopwood Junior High School's Jasmin Espina in the Junior Division and Mt. Carmel's Ryan Ortiz in the Senior Division.

Contact Humanities Council staff at 235-4785 for more information about this event. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Notice of meeting to Precinct III residents

The members of the House of Representatives from Election Precinct III will be conducting its first village meeting on April 21, 2010, Wednesday, at 6:30pm, at the Garapan Central Park.

All residents of Precinct III (Capitol Hill, Sadog Tasi, Upper and Lower Navy Hill, Garapan, Gualo Rai, Chalan Laolao, Chalan Kiya and San Jose) are kindly urged to attend this important meeting. The Mayor of Saipan and representatives from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Workforce Investment Agency (WIA) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) will also be present to provide information that are necessary and important for the residents of Precinct III. (PR)

Junior Night at Kagman High

To all parents and guardians of Kagman High School's Junior Class (11th graders), Junior Night will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010,

from 5pm to 7pm, at the Kagman High School Cafeteria. For any questions, call the school's office at 237-3840. (PR)

Kagman public hearing on austerity bill

The Office of Sen. Jovita Taimanao will be hosting a public hearing on the proposed austerity bill on April 13 at the Kagman Community Center at 6pm. All residents are strongly urged to attend this public hearing. (PR)

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held today, April 9 at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that takes place every government payday. It begins at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm. This week's vendors are Canton Restaurant, Lynn's Barbeque, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, Kagman

See COMMUNITY on Page 18

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-027

"Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School (KHS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Technology and Related Equipment for Kagman High School**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. This is re-announcement of IFB 10-018.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "IFB 10-027" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer



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COMMUNITY

From Page 17

Neighborhood Watch, and The Library Bookmobile.

Puengin Inetnon is a family-oriented event. Alcohol will be prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or email kagmankomunitatassociation@gmail.com. (PR)

Kagman poker parlor removal petition

The Kagman Komunitat Association will be having a signature drive at Puengin Inetnon at the Kagman Community Center. Interested Kagman residents who

would like to abolish poker parlors from the village of Kagman can sign the petition. The petition will be presented to the Legislature. Interested individuals who would like to help can email kagmankomunitatassociation@gmail.com.

Kagman Neighborhood Watch

The Kagman Neighborhood Watch block captains will have an informational booth at the Kagman Street Market today at the Kagman Community Center. Block captain Glenn Dikito and Block captain Eric Magofna will be recruiting block captains and members for Kagman Neighborhood Watch.

Email glennndikito@gmail.com for more information. (PR)

UOG to host College Night on Saipan

The University of Guam will host a College Night on Saipan on April 19 to provide admissions, academic, and financial aid information high school students and their parents. The event will be held at them Multi-Purpose Center on Saipan on April 19 beginning at 6pm. The University of Guam will be administering the math placement test at various high schools. Contact Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath, dean of Enrollment Management and Student Services, at 735-2292 or julieuh@uguam.uog.edu for more information. (UoG)

NMC Charter Day set

The Northern Marianas College Charter Day Committee has set

the date of the celebration for May 7, 2010. It will be 29 years this April since NMC was first chartered.

The committee is inviting agencies, businesses, clubs, and other civic organizations to participate in the celebration. Organizations may purchase booth space for the following categories: food/drink, specialty drinks (e.g., coffee coolers or pearl shakes), games booths, retail (arts and crafts, toys, etc), and information.

The deadline to submit applications for booth spaces is on April 26, 2010. Booth space is limited, so applications should be submitted as soon as possible.

For application forms, requirements, or for more information,

contact Alaysha Muna at 234-5498 Ext. 1300 or email alaysham@nmcnet.edu. (NMC)

DUI checkpoints today, tomorrow

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting DUI checkpoints today and tomorrow, April 9 and 10.

The first setup will be held on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa, in front of Super Fresh Market on the northbound outer lane, from 10:30pm to 11:45pm. The second setup will be on 2W Chalan Laulau in front of the IT&E building on the southbound outer lane, from 1am to 2:15am.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated it begins to rain.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar 664-9084 or 664-9085. (PR)

special guest on the show between 9:30am and 10am.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona and airs every Saturday between 9am and 11am. Simultaneous Internet broadcast is available via www.magic100radio.com. For more information, call Glenn Manglona at 287-4536 or e-mail mariana-sagupa@gmail.com. (PR)

John Gonzales Live for April 2010

Shows air live on KSPN Channel 2 on Wednesdays, 7pm-8 pm, with replays on Sundays and Mondays at 7pm-8 pm. LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; LIVE Email: john-gonzales@pticom.com

■ April 7, 2010: LIVE 7-8 pm; replays 4/11 and 4/12 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Autism Education and Awareness

Guests: NMI Autism Society and Tom Thornburgh (NMPASI)

■ April 14: LIVE 7-8 pm; replays 4/18 and 4/19 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Aquaculture five-year plan!

Guests: Michael Ogo, NMC CREEES aquaculture specialist

■ April 21: LIVE 7-8 pm; REPLAYS 4/25 and 4/26 @ 7-8 pm

Topic: Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Awareness Month

Guests: Tinian EUDL Task Force and CNMI EUDL Task Force (PR)



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² Guam and CNMI residents and branches only. Must have a Continental Airlines OnePass account to receive OnePass miles. No purchase necessary. All OnePass terms and conditions apply. See branch for official rules.

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**INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-WIA-083**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 20, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

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THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/S/ EDITH DELEON GUERRERO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WIA

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

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NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office(CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 9:30 am at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza in Chalan Pale Arnold.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

1) Tinian Rock Quarry Operation-CRM Reference No. TMS-2010-X-031
2) Marine Salvage Operation-CRM Reference No. SMS-2009-X-082
a) Permit application
b) Discussion of permit application by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c) Permit Status determination

III. Other Matters

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ Rita C. Chong - Dela Cruz
Director

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LIMIT 2
\$15.99
20 LBS.

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LIMIT 2
\$16.99
/CASE

Young Whole
Chicken

LIMIT 2
\$33.99
30 LBS.

Salmon Collar

FAMILY BAG
\$9.99
/DOZ.

U.S. Eggs
Medium

\$1.99
/DOZ.

Hot Pockets/
Lean Pockets

2 for
\$6.00
1/12 OZ.

Headless
Shrimp

\$5.99
1 LB.

Vega Shrimp

\$4.99
1 LB. LIMIT 2

Green Mussels

\$3.99
2 LB. LIMIT 1

Dashida Soup
Stock

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Excellent
Flour/
Rice Stick

79¢
79¢

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(All Flavor)

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Beef Rib
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5 LBS.

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/PKG. LIMIT 2

Hoffy Portugese
Sausage

\$1.99
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Lamb Shoulder
Roll

\$4.99
1 LB.

Squid

\$1.99
BOX
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Mackerel Pike

\$20.99
22 LBS.

Tilapia
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Swisscheese

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Kashi Pizza
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Folgers Coffee

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39 OZ.

Maseca Flour

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Crab Stick

\$1.99

Purple Yam
(Florence)

\$1.99
12 OZ.

Broccoli

\$1.59

Cabbage

79¢
/LB.

Garlic
(4 pcs.)

89¢
/LB.

Potato
(Jumbo)

79¢
/LB.

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89¢
/LB.

Watermelon

59¢
/LB.

Cucumber

30¢
/LB.

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Hormel Corned
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LIMIT 6 CANS

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No Beans

\$1.99
LIMIT 6 CANS

Master A1 Tuna

99¢
LIMIT 6 CANS

Ace Diamond Tuna

\$1.19
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Ligo Sardines

79¢
EACH

Libby's Vienna
Sausage

\$9.99
/BOX (18 CANS)

Knorr Carb &
Corn Soup 60 g.

\$1.25

Kimchee
Base

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Base

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16 OZ.

Morris Jeppson, airman who flew on *Enola Gay*, dies at 87

By RICHARD GOLDSTEIN
THE NEW YORK TIMES

Morris R. Jeppson, an Army Air Forces electronics specialist who helped arm the atomic bomb aboard the *Enola Gay* as it flew to Hiroshima, died March 30 at a hospital in Las Vegas. Jeppson, who was 87 and lived in Las Vegas, was the next-to-last survivor of the 12 men who carried out history's first atomic strike.

His death was announced by his wife, Molly.

(Editor's Note: Jeppson, together with *Enola Gay* pilot Gen. Paul W. Tibbets and navigator Theodore Van Kirk, attended the 60th anniversary of the World War II Battles of Saipan and Tinian in June 2004 here in the Marianas.)

When the *Enola Gay* lifted off from the island of Tinian in the Northern Mariana Islands in

the early hours of Aug. 6, 1945, Jeppson was making his first and only combat flight.

As the assistant to Capt. William S. Parsons of the Navy, the officer in overall control of the uranium bomb known as Little Boy, Jeppson checked its circuits, timing devices and radar components.

After a flawless six-and-a-half-hour flight, the bomb systems working perfectly, the *Enola Gay*'s pilot, Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., brought the four-engine B-29 Superfortress over Hiroshima. The bomb was dropped at 8:15 in the morning and exploded 43 seconds later, creating an inferno that left tens of thousands dead or dying.

When the *Enola Gay* returned to Tinian, Jeppson went to dinner.



Jeppson

"There were several Navy officers there," he told *Time* magazine in 2005. "One of them turned to me and asked, 'What did you do today?' I'd heard a lot of their stories, so I thought I'd make just one remark. I said, 'I think we ended the war today.'"

Three days after the Hiroshima raid, another B-29 dropped a plutonium bomb on the city of Nagasaki. On Aug. 15, Japan surrendered.

Morris Richard Jeppson was born on June 23, 1922, in Logan, Utah. After enlisting in the Army Air Forces in 1943 and undergoing basic training in Florida, he was among a group of airmen sent to leading universities for training in electronics.

After obtaining his commission as a second lieutenant, he was as-

signed to the base at Wendover, Utah, where the crews of the 509th Composite Group trained for the atomic bomb missions under extraordinary secrecy.

Jeppson was assigned to help the Manhattan Project scientists who were assembling the bomb at Los Alamos, N.M., to understand its electronic devices. He divided his time between Wendover and the New Mexico desert before departing for Tinian and the final preparations to drop the bomb.

When the bomb detonated above Hiroshima, the *Enola Gay*'s tailgunner was the only crewman who witnessed the explosion, Jeppson recalled. "The rest of us saw the billowing clouds and the mushroom cloud rising," he told *The Las Vegas Sun* in 2000.

Jeppson left military service in 1946. He worked on nuclear projects at the Lawrence Liver-

more National Laboratory in California and later founded a company that manufactured high-power microwave heating systems for industrial use and food processing.

Jeppson's first marriage ended in divorce. In addition to his wife, Jeppson is survived by their daughter, Sally Jeppson, of Gackle, N.D.; two daughters from his first marriage, Nancy Hoskins of Colorado Springs

and Carol English of Medford, Ore.; his stepsons, Mike Sullivan of Pahrump, Nev., and John Sullivan of Lakeport, Calif., and a stepdaughter, Jane Ross, of Midland, Ontario; a brother, Lawrence, of Salt Lake City; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Jeppson's death leaves Theodore Van Kirk, 89, the *Enola Gay*'s navigator, as the plane's last survivor.

Local WIC program is recognized for improving breastfeeding rates

The Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has commended the NMI Department of Public Health's Women, Infants, and Children Program for its outstanding achievement in improving breastfeeding rates among mothers participating in the program.

On March 31, 2010, the program was awarded a Breastfeeding Performance Bonus Award of \$5,000 in recognition of the

program's breastfeeding promotion and support efforts.

This award is part of the \$5 million first time awards divided among the top 10 state agencies that have improved and achieved high rates of breastfeeding among WIC participants and families in need. Each award is based on the state agency's proportionate share of breastfeeding WIC participants subject to a minimum award of \$5,000 for small state agencies and \$50,000 for large state agencies.

Breastfeeding promotion and support is a significant priority of the WIC program. The WIC program promotes breastfeeding as the optimal method of feeding infants, unless medically contraindicated, as it provides health benefits for both the mother and child. Studies have shown that breastfed babies have a reduced risk of being overweight later in life.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez lauded the staff of the CNMI WIC Program for its continued efforts in promoting breastfeeding and providing the necessary support that WIC mothers and their families need to successfully breastfeed. As the CNMI WIC Program continues to build upon this success, the CNMI is one step closer to achieving healthier families for a lifetime. (PR)

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REQUEST FOR INDEPENDENT SERVICE CONTRACT

FOR

AGRICULTURE CONSULTANT
(BETELNUT AND RODENT CONTROL PROJECT)

CLOSING DATE IS APRIL 12, 2010 BY 4:30 PM

Northern Marianas College is announcing a one (1) year contract for an Agriculture Consultant for the Betel nut and Rodent Control Project. Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at NMC CREEs Office, located in Bldg F, Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:30 pm.

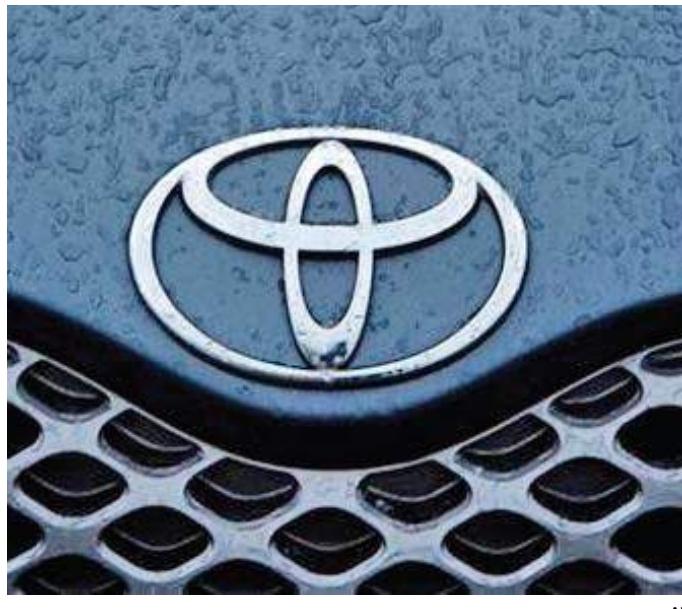
Interested vendors may submit inquiries regarding this announcement to Ross Manglona, by facsimile to (670) 234-0054, or by e-mail to rossm@nmcnet.edu. If there are no qualified vendors or the number of qualified vendors, are deemed insufficient, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of submittals until the position is filled.

It is the policy of Northern Marianas College that equal opportunity is given to all qualified vendors without regard to age, race, gender, marital status, place of origin, religion, disability status, political affiliation or family relationship, or genetic information (GINA). The college reserves the right to waive or implement other means to meet its needs and the right to reject all vendors or withdraw the vacancy should NMC determine such a position is no longer needed or able to be filled. The College is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

/s/Ross S. Manglona
Director, NMC CREEs

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

Business



In this Jan. 29, 2010 file photo, a Toyota logo is seen at a dealership in Kamp-Lintfort, western Germany.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tax Day is a dreaded deadline for millions, but for nearly half of U.S. households it's simply somebody else's problem.

About 47 percent will pay no federal income taxes at all for 2009. Either their incomes were too low, or they qualified for enough credits, deductions and exemptions to eliminate their liability.

That's according to projections by the Tax Policy Center, a Washington research organization.

Most people still are required to file returns by the April 15 deadline. The penalty for skipping it is limited to the amount of taxes owed, but it's still almost always better to file: That's the only way to get a refund of all the income taxes withheld by employers.

In recent years, credits for low- and middle-income families have

Nearly half of US households escape fed income tax

grown so much that a family of four making as much as \$50,000 will owe no federal income tax for 2009, as long as there are two children younger than 17, according to a separate analysis by the consulting firm Deloitte Tax.

Tax cuts enacted in the past decade have been generous

to wealthy taxpayers, too, making them a target for President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress.

Less noticed were tax cuts for low- and middle-income families, which were expanded when Obama signed the massive economic recovery package last year.

The result is a tax system that exempts almost half the country from paying for programs that benefit everyone, including national defense, public safety, infrastructure and education.

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Also visit Farmers Market on Tuesday!
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Toyota official: 'We need to come clean'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Five days before Toyota announced a massive recall, a U.S. public relations executive at the automaker warned colleagues in an internal e-mail: "We need to come clean" about accelerator problems, according to documents obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"We are not protecting our customers by keeping this quiet," wrote Irv Miller, group vice president for environment and public affairs. "The time to hide on this one is over."

The recently retired Miller wrote the e-mail on Jan. 16, 2010, as Toyota officials were on their

way to Washington to discuss the problems with federal regulators. On Jan. 21, Toyota announced it would recall 2.3 million vehicles to address sticking pedals in six vehicle models.

The e-mail reveals deep concerns within the company's leadership that Toyota wasn't dealing with the safety problems effectively and could damage the automaker's sterling reputation for producing safe and reliable vehicles. The company already had announced a recall of more than 4 million vehicles in late September 2009 to replace gas pedals that could get stuck in floor mats and cause sudden acceleration.

"We better just hope that they can get NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) to work with us in coming (up) with a workable solution that does not put us out of business," Miller wrote.

The e-mail was addressed to Katsuhiko Koganei, executive coordinator for corporate communications for Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A. Inc.

"I hate to break this to you but WE HAVE A tendency for MECHANICAL failure in accelerator pedals of a certain manufacturer on certain models," Miller's e-mail began with several words in capital letters.

In a memo earlier that day, Koganei wrote Mike Michels, vice president of external communications, "Now I talked with you on the phone, we should not mention about the mechanical failures of acc. pedal because we have not clarified the real cause of the sticking acc pedal formally, and the remedy for the matter has not been confirmed."

Koganei further wrote that Toyota executives were concerned that news of the mechanical failures "might raise another uneasiness of customers." The subject line said the e-mail was in regard to a draft statement to respond to an ABC News story.

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Nation

Gas levels drop at WV mine; crews may start search

MONTCOAL, W.Va. (AP)—Two days after the worst U.S. mining disaster in a generation, rescue crews were called to the Upper Big Branch coal mine late Wednesday to prepare to descend underground and search for possible survivors of the explosion that killed 25.

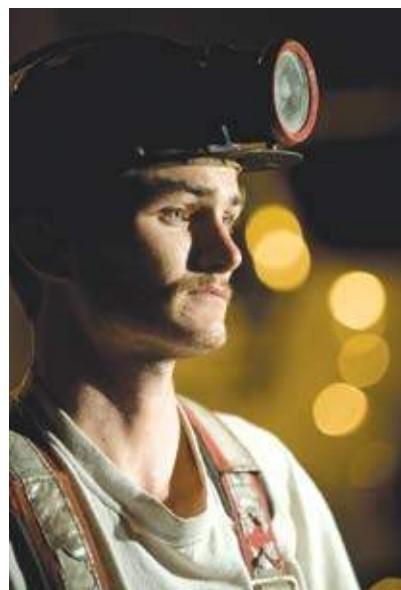
Chances were slim that any of the four still-missing miners survived, due to poisonous gases in the underground tunnels. But a federal safety official said efforts to drill holes and ventilate the mine had resulted in lower levels of lethal carbon monoxide and highly explosive hydrogen and methane at the top of the holes.

Officials planned to test levels at the bottom of the holes to determine if six teams of five rescuers each could safely enter and look for the missing.

The hope: that survivors made it to one of the shaft's rescue chambers, which are stocked with food, water and enough oxygen to last four days. As of late Wednesday, there had been no signs of life deep underground.

"We just can't take any chances" with the lives of rescuers, Kevin Stricklin of the federal Mine Safety and Health Administration had said earlier. "If we're going to send a rescue team, we have to say it's safe for them to go in there."

Officials could not say specifically when rescuers might be able to start the 5-mile trek from the entrance, but if the readings at the bottom were good, they want them on the move as soon



A coal miner who would only identify himself as Chris speaks about the miners who died in a Monday evening explosion at Massey Energy Co.'s sprawling Upper Big Branch mine in Montcoal, W.Va. Wednesday, April 7, 2010.

AP

as possible, Stricklin said. Optimistically it would take two to three hours to reach the section about 1,000 feet down where officials believe the last four might be.

ACROSS THE NATION

Source: Man on flight trying to sneak smoke

DENVER (AP)—A Qatari diplomat trying to sneak a smoke in an airplane bathroom sparked a bomb scare Wednesday night on a flight from Washington to Denver, with fighter jets scrambled and law enforcement put on high alert, officials said. No explosives were found on the man, and officials do not believe he was trying to harm anyone, according to a senior law enforcement officials who spoke on condition of anonymity. The incident comes three months after the attempted terror attack on Christmas Day when a Nigerian man tried to blow up a Detroit-bound airliner. Since then, law enforcement, flight crews and passengers have been on high alert for suspicious activity on airplanes. The scare exposed

Stricklin said relatives of the miners backed the decision to hold off until it was safe.

The plan is for the teams to check the two inflatable chambers in the section of the blast, as well as other areas, Stricklin said. Workers also planned to drill another hole so they could lower a camera into one of the chambers to see if anyone was inside. That would happen if the gas levels remained too dangerous.

major holes in the country's national security and prompted immediate changes in terror-screening policies.

Fire danger threatens where Northeast floods hit

BOSTON (AP)—Officials in southern New England have issued fire danger warnings for some of the areas put underwater by record flooding just days ago. The temperature Wednesday hit 92 degrees in Providence, R.I., and Hartford, Conn., on Wednesday, setting records for the day in both cities, the National Weather Service said. The temperature hit a record 90 at Boston's Logan International Airport. Providence last month also set a record for rainfall in a month, and Boston had its second-rainiest month on record.

FBI arrests Calif man for alleged Pelosi threats

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California man angry about health care reform allegedly made threatening and harassing phone calls to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, including at least one call in which he got through and spoke to her directly, law enforcement officials said.

Gregory Lee Giusti, 48, was arrested Wednesday at his San Francisco home, said Joseph Schadler, spokesman for the FBI's San Francisco office. Schadler would not disclose the charges against Giusti, saying they were under seal until his first appearance before a federal magistrate, scheduled for Thursday.

The arrest came a day after a Washington state man was arrested for allegedly leaving threatening voicemails for U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, and as other Democratic lawmakers have faced vicious verbal attacks over their support of the historic health care overhaul.

Several federal officials said Giusti made dozens of calls to Pelosi's homes in California and Washington, as well as to her husband's business office. They said he recited her home address and said if she wanted to see it again, she would not support the health care overhaul bill that since has been enacted.

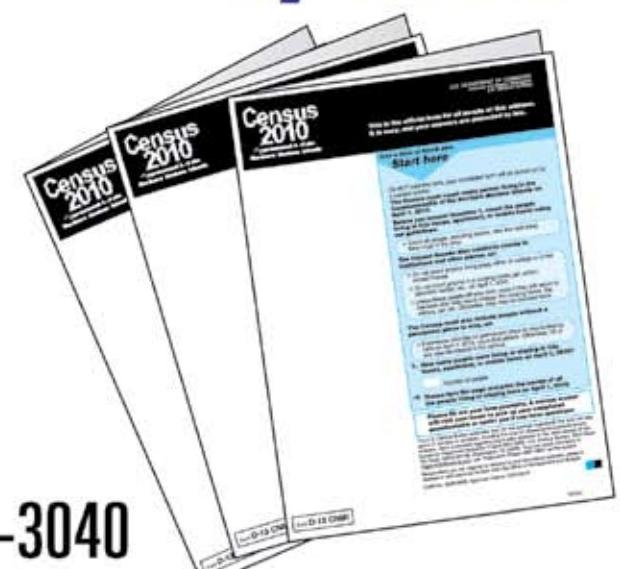
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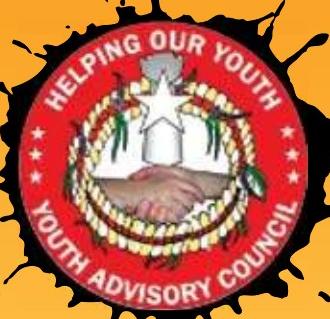
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands



For assistance in completing your CNMI Census form, please call 288-3040



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CNMI Youth Advisory Council
CNMI Juvenile Justice Task Force



APRIL 2010 **ENFORCING UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS (EUDL) AWARENESS MONTH**

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

- **APRIL 7, 2010: EUDL TOWNHALL MEETING**
@ KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA, 6:00PM – 8:00PM.
- **APRIL 12, 2010: EUDL COMPLIANCE CHECKS OPERATION FOR ANY ESTABLISHMENTS SELLING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**
- **APRIL 21, 2010: EUDL TOWNHALL MEETING**
@ THE MULTIPURPOSE CENTER IN SUSUPE, 6:00PM – 8:00PM.
- **APRIL 23, 2010: EUDL COMPLIANCE CHECKS OPERATION FOR ANY ESTABLISHMENTS SELLING ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**
- **APRIL 24-25, 2010: EUDL YOUTH SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT**
@ CAPITOL HILL SOFTBALL FIELD
- **APRIL 30, 2010: EUDL YOUTH CONFERENCE**
@ SAIPAN WORLD RESORT, 9:00AM – 4:00PM.

THESE ARE ALCOHOL FREE EVENTS. NO ALCOHOL IS TO BE CONSUMED OR SERVED AT ANY OF THESE EVENTS. ANY VIOLATORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

For more information regarding the EUDL Youth Softball Tournament, please contact Mr. Isidoru Camacho for any inquiries if you are interested.

For more information about the EUDL Youth Conference and other activities in April, please contact the Criminal Justice Planning Agency at 670-664-4550.

THE CNMI JUVENILE JUSTICE TASK FORCE REMINDS EVERYONE TO PLEASE ENFORCE UNDERAGE DRINKING LAWS.

HELP KEEP OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SAFE! DO NOT PROVIDE ALCOHOL TO MINORS UNDER THE AGE OF 21.



21! IT'S THE LAW!

A message from the CNMI Youth Advisory Council and the Juvenile Justice Task Force. Made possible by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



RFP-10-014

REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING 8-INCH PETROLEUM PIPELINE FOR CUC POWER PLANT NOS.: 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting proposals to completely design and conduct engineering (phase 1) and replace (phase 2) the existing CUC fuel transfer pipeline to the power plant 1 & 2 at Lower Base, Saipan. The options required are (a) to have an extension to the port for direct tanker transfer and (b) to have the complete pipeline installation, underground.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:00p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, until April 12, 2010.

One (1) original and five (5) copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-10-014, Replacement of Existing 8-inch Petroleum Pipeline for CUC power Plant Nos. 1&2" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Jooten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 20, 2010** at 10:00 AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. CUC reserves the right to reject any proposal received after that time. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations, § 50-50-225 (Competitive Sealed Proposals).

A mandatory Pre-proposal conference followed by a Site Visit will be arranged for this project on **March 30, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant Administration Bldg. The prospective proposers are required to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety of proposal security or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a Copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wages, prevailing through the period of contract as indicated in the web page <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

CUC is seeking proposers who have qualifications and experience in installing petroleum pipelines in accordance with 49 CFR regulations other relevant standards including the American Petroleum Institute (API). Contractors are advised that proposals with any conditions or exceptions to the terms of this Request for Proposal (RFP) and failure to supply or respond to any clarification of proposal upon request in a timely manner shall be cause to reject their proposal. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Contract will be awarded to the party submitting the most responsive proposal, and who is determined by CUC to be best qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily, and to meet all other requirements thereof. CUC reserves the rights, nevertheless, to accept a proposal other than the lowest, if it determines that CUC's interest will be best served by doing so, or to reject any and all proposals or parts of proposals received.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **April 14, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, procurement and Supply Manager, CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - msablan@cucgov.net, Procurement Assistant Ms. Beck Grimes - beckyg@cucgov.net and Mr. Venu Prabhakar, Power Generation Engineering Manager - venu@cucgov.net. CUC will respond to any questions and clarification only to prospective proposers who have registered to the solicitation.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID ITB10-GOV-087

Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Administration Building and Elevator Installation Project

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lieutenant Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Phase II, Hardening/Renovations of the Juan A. Sablan Building and Elevator Installation Project, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, March 30, 2010 at the Governor's Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A \$50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on Wednesday, April 07, 2010, 9:00 a.m., Saipan local time, at the project site, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. Saipan local time on April 14, 2010 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Capital Improvement, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB10-GOV-087". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, April 27, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time April 27, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than April 27, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 06, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 06, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, on April 27, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by one hundred twenty (120) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ ELOY S. INOS, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP to shut down malls to save power

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government, grappling with electricity shortages brought on by a long drought, said Thursday it will ask shopping malls and factories to shut down for several days to ensure an uninterrupted power supply during May elections. Optical scanning machines will be used for the first time to count the votes and transmit them electronically, but some poll watchdogs have expressed fear of a failure of the May 10 national elections in case of power cuts. A consortium that won the bid to provide 80,000 machines has promised to supply back-up batteries. Energy Secretary Jose Ibazeta said the government will ask malls and factories in the southern region of Mindanao, which has been worst hit by daily rotating blackouts lasting several hours, to shut down or scale down operations for three days from May 9 to 11 to save energy.

Sri Lankans vote in parliamentary elections

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankans voted Thursday for a new Parliament that will decide how to ensure peace and development after decades of civil war, with President Mahinda Rajapaksa seeking to expand his political dominance after winning re-election. Voters lined up as polls opened throughout the island nation southeast of India, and Rajapaksa cast his ballot at his home village of Medamulana in southern Sri Lanka. Rajapaksa, a hero among the Sinhalese majority for overseeing last year's government victory in the quarter-century civil war against Tamil Tiger rebels, is pushing for a two-thirds parliamentary majority that would allow his party to change the constitution. The coalition headed by Rajapaksa, who won re-election in January, holds 128 seats in the outgoing 225-member

Parliament, and it was not expected to face much competition at the polls.

Protesters defy state of emergency in Bangkok

BANGKOK (AP)—Defiant anti-government demonstrators dared Thailand's government Thursday to break up their escalating protests, vowing to stage a mass rally in the capital despite a state of emergency that empowers the military to move against large gatherings. The country's beleaguered prime minister declared the emergency Wednesday night after protesters briefly broke into Parliament, capping weeks of protests that have paralyzed the government and cost businesses tens of millions of dollars. The "Red Shirt" demonstrators championing the rights of the rural poor remained uncowed. Their makeshift camps set up in Bangkok's historic district March 12 have spread to the main commercial district and beyond, and they planned a mass rally Friday.

Rescuers in fading bid to save 26 from China mine

XIANGNING, China (AP)—Rescuers pumped water Thursday in a fading bid to find more survivors in a flooded mine in northern China where 115 miners were dramatically rescued this week after being trapped for eight days. The confirmed death toll rose to 12 early Thursday, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported. Some 26 miners are believed trapped in two areas and there have been no further signs of life. "Now we're racing against time and putting efforts in full swing to concentrate on these two areas," Liu Dezheng, the rescue headquarters' spokesman, told a news conference. With 5,000 rescuers at the mine site, pumping water out was the top priority. "It's only after we've pumped water out and cleared a way through that we can go in. If we can't go in, we can't rescue them," he said.



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INVITATION TO BID ITB10-GOV-088

Construct Storm Water Collection & Disposal Systems to San Vicente and Tanapag Elementary Schools

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos are soliciting sealed bids to construct storm water collection and disposal systems for the San Vicente and Tanapag Elementary Schools, located on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at the Governor's CIP Administrator's Office, Juan A Sablan Building, Capitol Hill. A non-refundable payment of Twenty Five Dollars (\$25.00) is required for each project package. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the CIP Office on Capitol Hill. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for these projects on Tuesday April 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m., beginning at San Vicente Elementary School and ending at Tanapag Elementary School. Questions regarding the ITB must be submitted in writing to Mr. N. Stanley Good, CIP Project Manager, CIP Office, Office of the Governor or faxed to (670) 664-2408. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2010.

Sealed bids must be marked "ITB10-GOV-088". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2010. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. Saipan local time May 10, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 10, 2010 and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m. May 17, 2010. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 4:00 p.m. Saipan local time, May 17, 2010. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 11:00 a.m. Saipan local time, May 10, 2010.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is 90 calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by ninety (90) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

Church: Norway bishop resigned in '09 over abuse

OSLO (AP)—A Catholic bishop in Norway who resigned last year did so after admitting he had molested a child about 20 years earlier, when he was a priest, church officials said Wednesday. The announcement came after a Norwegian newspaper pressed for an explanation for why Georg Mueller, a 58-year-old German, had stepped down unexpectedly as bishop in the western city of Trondheim in June 2009. At the time, Vatican and Norwegian church officials gave only vague reasons for Mueller's departure. It was the first case in the current wave of sexual abuse allegations—and accusations of cover-ups—against Catholic clergy in which a bishop stepped down after admitting to having molested minors.

Putin says Stalin massacred Poles out of revenge

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin made an unprecedented gesture of good will to Poland on Wednesday by attending a memorial ceremony for 22,000 Poles executed by Soviet secret police during World War II. But hours later he soured the mood by offering a controversial justification for the massacres. After attending the solemn event with Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk, Putin said Soviet dictator Josef Stalin ordered the atrocity as revenge for the death of Red Army soldiers in Polish prisoner of war camps in 1920.

Uruguay's new leader strengthens ties with Chavez

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez offered Wednesday to help Uruguay expand a refinery and supply it with crude oil.

Chavez and visiting Uruguayan President Jose Mujica, popularly known as "Pepe," signed accords pledging to deepen trade and energy ties between the two South American nations.

Venezuela's president expressed admiration for the 74-year-old Mujica, a former leftist guerrilla leader who took office last month. Chavez embraced Mujica when he arrived at the presidential palace, affectionately calling him "a mentor."

Chavez presented Mujica with the Order of the Liberator—Venezuela's highest honor—and gave him a replica of a sword used by South American independence hero Simon Bolivar—the namesake of Chavez's socialist-inspired "Bolivarian Revolution."

Opposition says it leads Kyrgyzstan after uprising

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan

(AP)—The opposition seized Kyrgyzstan's government headquarters Thursday following clashes between protesters and security forces that have left 68 people dead nationwide, and appeared to control this Central Asian country that houses a key U.S. air base.

No police guarded the government headquarters, and hundreds of jubilant but calm residents stood outside, including some who had climbed up on an armored personnel carrier. Others were walking freely through the building known as the White House.

Scars of Wednesday's fighting, though, were everywhere in the capital, Bishkek, and the



Health Ministry said the death toll rose overnight to 68, with 400 people still hospitalized.

Pain from torrent in Rio falls heavily on slums

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Rodrigo de Almeira had dug for 15 hours through mud and debris, and he looked like it. Auburn mud covered his head, his ripped shirt, his torn jeans and his rubber sandals.

When asked Wednesday if he had been able to save anyone from the massive landslide in the slum where he lives, he silently shook his head. Of the 145 people confirmed dead from Rio's heaviest rains on record, at least 18 died in his shantytown, Pleasure Hill.

"Right there at least 15 people I know died," Almeira said, staring at a massive mound of mud and debris. Wood planks—remnants of the shacks engulfed by the landslide—poked through the mud as 30 rescue workers

gingerly dug at it with picks and shovels, still looking for survivors.

"We found a guy alive this morning, so we had hope," said Almeira, 28. "He didn't make it, we were told he died on his way to the hospital."

More death was certain for Rio.

Late Wednesday, an official with the state's Civil Defense department said a huge mudslide smashed into a slum in Rio's neighboring city of Niteroi, burying up to 40 homes. It was not immediately clear how many people were missing, but it was likely to be in the dozens.

Because of the continuing rains, steep hillsides and loose earth, officials said there had been few successful rescues.

The numbers included those killed or wounded in clashes elsewhere in the country as protesters drove out local governments.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev, who came to power in a similar popular uprising five years ago, was said to have fled to the southern city of Osh, and

it was difficult to gauge how much of the impoverished, mountainous country the opposition controlled.

Opposition leader Rosa Otunbayeva, a former foreign minister who has declared herself head of an interim government, was to address parliament Thursday morning.

The opposition has called for the closure of the U.S. air base in Manas outside the capital, which is an essential transit point for supplies essential to the war in nearby Afghanistan.

U.S. military officials said Kyrgyzstan officials halted flights for 12 hours on Wednesday at the Manas air base, but the suspension was not expected to impact military operations because fewer flights were scheduled during overnight hours.

Some semblance of order returned to Bishkek, where until the early hours of the morning gunfire could be heard as marauding, looting mobs rampaged through the city.

Almost no government building was left untouched. Some were set on fire or had windows smashed. A three-story Chinese trading house was ablaze Thursday. The state TV channel was overrun and looted.

On Wednesday, protesters who were called into the streets by opposition parties stormed government buildings in Bishkek and battled with police amid volleys of tear gas. Groups of elite officers then fired with live ammunition.

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RESPONSIBILITY MATTERS



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Board of Regents

Special Board Meeting
Board of Regents Conference Room, NMC Saipan Campus
Monday, April 12, 2010
3:00p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Roll Call
- II. New Business
 - A. Personnel Matters – Hearing
- III. Executive Session
 - (At any time during the scheduled meeting the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- IV. Adjournment

/s/ Janet Han King
Chairperson, Board of Regents

April 9, 2010
Date

Life & Style

'American Idol' finalist saved from elimination

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael “Big Mike” Lynche didn’t get the big boot on “American Idol.” The soulful 26-year-old personal trainer and father from Queens, N.Y., was saved Wednesday by the judges on the ninth season of the Fox singing competition. Lynche was praised for his R&B take on “Eleanor Rigby” during Tuesday’s performance show featuring tunes from the John Lennon and Paul McCartney songbook, but he still received the fewest viewer votes.

“We have decided we’re going to see you next week,” Simon Cowell declared.

The one-time-only power,

introduced last season and previously used on piano-playing fifth-placer finisher Matt Giraud, allows the judges to save a contestant from being eliminated—if the panel unanimously agree—up until the round in which the show’s top five finalists have been selected.

With Lynche safe this week, that means two contestants will be sent packing next week.

Joining Lynche in the bottom three were 25-year-old musician Andrew Garcia from Moreno, Calif., and 17-year-old high school student Aaron Kelly of Sonestown, Pa.

Garcia and Kelly both re-

ceived lukewarm receptions to their respective renditions of “Can’t Buy Me Love” and “The Long and Winding Road.” None of the men had previously been low-vote getters.

“Idol” host Ryan Seacrest teased the “shocking” results before revealing that 24-year-old musician Crystal Bowersox of Toledo, Ohio, 20-year-old glass blower Siobhan Magnus of Marstons Mills, Mass., and 17-year-old high school student Katie Stevens of Middlebury, Conn., were safe from elimination. Stevens had been in the bottom three for the past two weeks.

Houston has again pushed back the European leg of her first tour in years on the advice of doctors who are encouraging her to take time to recover from a respiratory illness, according to a statement issued Wednesday.

Houston had already postponed the European kickoff, originally scheduled for Tuesday in Paris, because of illness. A statement from a representative said doctors advised Houston to reschedule concerts Thursday and Friday in Manchester, England, and a Sunday perfor-

mance in Glasgow, Scotland.

All dates are being rescheduled, and the 46-year-old singer’s tour is now supposed to start next Tuesday in Birmingham, England.

“Doctors visited Whitney late last night in Paris and confirmed that she was suffering from an upper respiratory infection,” the statement read.

“Upon medical advice Whitney has been advised that she cannot perform to allow her time to recover.”

The statement noted she delayed the tour with “great

disappointment.”

Houston, one of pop’s all-time best-selling artists, had been on a hiatus from music as she battled drug addiction and ended a tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown. But with her new CD, “I Look to You,” she returned on the top of the charts and declared herself healthy and free from substance abuse.

The superstar has been on a world tour to promote the CD, which has sold more than 1 million copies in the United States alone.

French first lady dismisses rumors of infidelity

PARIS (AP)—Carla Bruni-Sarkozy on Wednesday dismissed as “insignificant” rumors of infidelity by her and her husband, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, and brushed off theories that lies were planted in a plot to bring down the glamorous couple.

She said in an interview with Europe 1 radio that she and Sarkozy “have turned the page” and suggested the media to do the same.

The rumors started in early March by appearing on the blog of a French Sunday newspaper. The rest of the French media initially took a don’t-touch approach, even though some foreign newspapers, notably British, published the rumors. They alleged that both the first lady, a former top model, and the president were having affairs.

The reports made headlines in France last weekend with interviews by Sarkozy’s lawyer and a top aide close to the first lady who both held out the possibility that the rumors were part of a plot aimed at “destabilizing” the presidential couple.

But on Wednesday, Bruni-Sarkozy said: “For me and my husband these rumors are insignificant. ... There is no plot. There is no vengeance. There is nothing. We have



TUESDAY MARCH 30, 2010 file photo of French first lady Carla Bruni-Sarkozy during a visit to a KIPP school (Knowledge is Power Program) in Washington USA.

turned the page.”

Sarkozy’s whirlwind romance and marriage in February 2008 to Bruni-Sarkozy, who is now a popular singer, has been closely watched. It is his third marriage and she, in her younger years, famously dismissed monogamy as untenable. Sarkozy married Bruni after an embarrassing public separation and divorce from Cecilia Sarkozy.

In the face of the rumors, the couple have portrayed themselves as tenderly united. They were often seen holding hands during a trip last week to the United States that included a

private dinner with the Obamas at the White House.

Bruni-Sarkozy spoke of her husband with devotion on Wednesday, saying his job was not to fight back tawdry rumors but to work for the French.

The company which owns the Sunday paper, Le Journal du Dimanche, filed a legal complaint on March 25 for the “fraudulent introduction of information in a computer system,” which is against the law in France. The paper did not print the blog in question and the company which owns the paper, Hachette Filipacchi Medias, sought to determine who was responsible for the rumor.

The Paris prosecutor’s office said Tuesday that, following the complaint, judicial police are investigating to determine the source of the rumor.

Bruni-Sarkozy denied press reports that the French president pressured Hachette Filipacchi Medias to take legal action. Hachette Filipacchi is a subsidiary of the Lagardere group, which is headed by Sarkozy’s good friend, Arnaud Lagardere.

That action “does not concern us at all,” the first lady said. She also denied reports that a separate investigation ordered by the presidential Elysee Palace had been launched.

Bristol Palin to teens: ‘Pregnancy can wait’

NEW YORK (AP)—Bristol Palin says that if girls knew how tough it was to be a mom, they’d think twice about having sex.

The 19-year-old daughter of former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says she has chosen to practice abstinence herself, until marriage.

Bristol Palin, who once said it was unrealistic to ask young people to abstain from sex, said in an interview with The Associated Press that it’s realistic for her personally.

“I know it’s realistic to ask myself that, because I know I’m not going to until I’m married,”

she said.

Palin gave birth to a son, Tripp, in December 2008 and says she “wasn’t prepared at all” for the dramatic changes in her life since then.

“I don’t think anyone realizes how difficult it really is until you actually have a screaming baby in your arms and you’re up all night,” said Palin.

“It changes literally every aspect of your life, and if girls realized how hard it was to be a teen mom, they would think twice about having sex without the proper education and proper knowledge.”

Birth rates for teen mothers dropped 2 percent in 2008 after an increase from 2005 to 2007 according to a numbers released Tuesday by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Palin hopes to help the decline continue by educating her peers. Last year, she was named an ambassador for The Candie’s Foundation, a division of the apparel brand Candie’s, which has been raising awareness about teen pregnancy since 2001. She’ll appear in a new public service announcement called “Pause Before You Play.”

Whitney Houston postpones more European tour dates

NEW YORK (AP)—Whitney

Houston has again pushed back the European leg of her first tour in years on the advice of doctors who are encouraging her to take time to recover from a respiratory illness, according to a statement issued Wednesday.

Houston had already postponed the European kickoff, originally scheduled for Tuesday in Paris, because of illness. A statement from a representative said doctors advised Houston to reschedule concerts Thursday and Friday in Manchester, England, and a Sunday perfor-

mance in Glasgow, Scotland.

All dates are being rescheduled, and the 46-year-old singer’s tour is now supposed to start next Tuesday in Birmingham, England.

“Doctors visited Whitney late last night in Paris and confirmed that she was suffering from an upper respiratory infection,” the statement read.

“Upon medical advice Whitney has been advised that she cannot perform to allow her time to recover.”

The statement noted she delayed the tour with “great

disappointment.”

Houston, one of pop’s all-time best-selling artists, had been on a hiatus from music as she battled drug addiction and ended a tumultuous marriage to singer Bobby Brown. But with her new CD, “I Look to You,” she returned on the top of the charts and declared herself healthy and free from substance abuse.

The superstar has been on a world tour to promote the CD, which has sold more than 1 million copies in the United States alone.

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NOW SHOWING

Date Night		Synopsis		
Friday	4:10 7:30 9:35	Steve Carell and Tina Fey star in director Shawn Levy's comedy about a couple whose routine date night becomes anything but when dinner and a movie just won't suffice anymore. Their union in imminent danger of becoming hopelessly monotonous, the desperate couple goes to unprecedented lengths in order to preserve the spark.		
Saturday	1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35			
Sunday	1:20 4:10 7:30			
Mon thru Thurs	4:10 7:30			
Steve Carell, Tina Fey Comedy • Rated PG 13				

Our Family Wedding		Synopsis		
Friday	4:30 7:25 9:50	Our marriage, their wedding. It's lesson number one for any newly engaged couple, and Lucia (America Ferrera) and Marcus (Lance Gross) are no exception. In Fox Searchlight Pictures' Our Family Wedding, they learn the hard way that the path to saying "I do" can be rife with familial strife. When they return from college and too suddenly announce their marriage plans, they soon discover that their fathers—two highly competitive over-the-top egos—can wreak a major amount of havoc on their special day.		
Saturday	1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50			
Sunday	1:10 4:30 7:25			
Mon thru Thurs	4:30 7:25			
Forest Whitaker, America Ferrera Fantasy • Rated PG 13				

Clash Of The Titans 2D		Synopsis		
Friday	4:25 7:20 9:45	The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure Clash of the Titans is resurrected in this remake from Incredible Hulk director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.		
Saturday	1:25 4:25 7:20 9:45			
Sunday	1:25 4:25 7:20			
Mon thru Thurs	4:25 7:20			
Sam Worthington Fantasy • Rated PG 13				

Why Did I Get Married Too?		Synopsis		
Friday	4:20 7:05 9:45	The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure Clash of the Titans is resurrected in this remake from Incredible Hulk director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.		
Saturday	1:05 4:20 7:05 9:40			
Sunday	1:05 4:20 7:05			
Mon thru Thurs	4:20 7:05			
Janet Jackson, Tyler Perry Comedy • Rated PG 13				

How To Train Your Dragon		Synopsis		
Friday	4:00 7:00 9:30	The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure Clash of the Titans is resurrected in this remake from Incredible Hulk director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.		
Saturday	1:00 4:00 7:00			
Sunday	1:00 4:00 7:00			
Mon thru Thurs	4:00 7:00			
Gerald Butler, America Ferrera Children, Family • Rated PG				

Hot Tub Time Machine		Alice in Wonderland		
Friday	4:05 7:10 9:55	The 1981 mythological fantasy adventure Clash of the Titans is resurrected in this remake from Incredible Hulk director Louis Leterrier and veteran writer Lawrence Kasdan. The joint Legendary Films/Warner Bros. production focuses on Perseus (Sam Worthington), the mortal hero made to carry out a series of quests by the gods in order to win the hand of the imprisoned princess Andromeda.		
Saturday	1:30 4:05 7:10 9:55			
Sunday	1:30 4:05 7:10			
Mon thru Thurs	4:05 7:10			
John Cusack, Robert Corddry Comedy • Rated R				

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Grandma's late nights take their toll on her grandkids

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Carole's" husband died a year ago, and her oldest daughter passed away four months later. Carole now has her daughter's two oldest children, ages 10 and 14.

Carole has been going out with men she meets on the Internet, drinking and partying on weekends and neglecting the kids. The 10-year-old had been receiving psychological help since before her mom died and was on medication, but Carole has dropped all of this help for the child. The girl had been molested by a relative years ago, and now with her mother gone, she's not moving forward in school or in life.

Some of us are willing to take the children from her. She seems not to care what happens to them. She devotes all her attention to the next guy she can be with. She has left the kids alone all night when she was spending the night with men. I'm not supposed to know this, but my adult niece found out from the kids. What can our family do to bring Carole back to earth and help these kids?

DEEPLY CONCERNED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR DEEPLY CONCERNED: Bringing Carole back to earth and helping the kids may be two separate issues—and you may not be able to accomplish both. It is possible that Carole would be open to others in the family taking in the children if you approach her as a group and "sympathetically" offer her that option. Explain that you all can see the stress she's under trying to find herself as a widow and grieving mother.

It appears that she is in need of counseling—if she's open to it. Make it plain that her children would be welcome to stay with you on a temporary or permanent basis. If she agrees, fine. However, if she doesn't, contact Childhelp USA, which can give you information about agencies that can help. Contact them by logging onto www.childhelpusa.org or calling toll-free: 1-800-422-4453.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My son was killed in a car accident five years ago. His wife, who was pregnant at the time, gave birth to a beautiful baby boy a few months later.

Last month, I received a phone call from a woman we barely know who told me—very politely—that she had a "surprise" for me. She then informed me that I have another grandchild, a little girl! She claims my son got her granddaughter pregnant six years ago, and that she had the DNA checked to prove my son was the father. Needless to say, my wife and I were floored.

Abby, I don't know how to react. My wife, who is level-headed, told me not to react right now and to think things through. Do I go to this grandchild with open arms? It doesn't feel right. The child's mother has not reached out to us at all. I need your help.

MAN WITH NO PLAN IN NEW YORK

DEAR MAN WITH NO PLAN: Your wife is an intelligent lady. I, too, find it odd that you would be contacted—five years after your son's death—by someone other than the child's mother. The person you should go to "with open arms" is your attorney. If there is DNA evidence, your attorney can help you determine if it's authentic and what your next move should be. Because you have not heard from the mother, you should not approach the child unless you have first made certain your attention is welcome.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Megan Fox protests school budget cuts with comedy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Megan Fox and her sometime boyfriend, actor Brian Austin Green, are protesting California school budget cuts in a new video online.

In a video posted Wednesday on the comic Web site FunnyorDie.com, Fox urges viewers to "call, write and annoy the governor until he cries for his mommy."

She says more than \$17 billion has been cut from state educational programs over the past two years, and Green says the "terminators in Sacramento" plan to cut another \$2.5 billion.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell said last month that budget cuts have caused a 17 percent jump in the number of school districts facing financial uncertainty.

Fox and Green's 3 1/2-minute video had been viewed more than 66,500 times by Wednesday afternoon.



Portrait of Jackson up for auction online

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An over-the-top portrait of Michael Jackson is going up for auction online.

The eBay.com auction of the fantastical 50-by-40-inch painting by Australian artist Brett Livingstone Strong will launch Wednesday evening, the portrait's owner said Tuesday.

Titled "The Book," the colorful work is reportedly the only painting for which the King of Pop ever posed. It depicts Jackson, clad in a Renaissance-era red velvet jacket, seated amid a sweeping checkerboard floor underneath a magically translucent curtain at his Neverland Ranch.

"I've had it an awful long time," said toy inventor Marty Abrams, who acquired the painting with partner John Gentilly in 1992 from Japanese businessman Hiromichi Saeki as payment on a debt owed to them. "With the positive response to his music and the movie about him after his death, we thought it was a good time to sell it and for the world to see it."

For over 17 years, Abrams kept the painting in storage in a New Jersey warehouse. It was briefly on display at the Dancy-Power Automotive showroom in Harlem after Jackson's death last June. The painting, which also features the fairy character Tinkerbell hovering in the background, is hanging inside Abrams' home in Kings Point, N.Y.

Jon Gosselin sues Kate for custody of 8 children

READING, Pa. (AP)—Jon Gosselin has sued ex-wife Kate for primary custody of their eight children.

The former reality TV star also asked the Berks County Court on Wednesday to review his child support obligation.

Gosselin's attorney, Anthony

List, has previously accused Kate Gosselin of neglecting the children because she appears on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," a charge her attorney rejected as "patently false."

In court papers, Jon Gosselin says his ex-wife "abuses" her authority when it comes to scheduling visits with the kids. He also claims an arbitrator failed to require Kate to provide documentation of the children's expenses.

The Gosselins appeared on the TLC reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8" until their marriage fell apart last year. They divorced in December.

Clancy's 'Dead Or Alive' set for December release

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Clancy's next novel will be an all-star reunion.

The author is bringing together such favorite characters as Jack Ryan and John Clark for "Dead

or Alive," a thriller set in the post-Sept. 11 age of terrorism.

Publisher G.P. Putnam's Sons, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA), announced Wednesday that it plans a first printing of

1.75 million copies when the book comes out in December.

Clancy is known for such best-sellers as "The Hunt for Red October" and "Patriot Games."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Navratilova has breast cancer; prognosis excellent

NEW YORK (AP)—Tennis great Martina Navratilova says she has been diagnosed with breast cancer and her prognosis is excellent. Navratilova said in a phone interview Wednesday that a routine mammogram in January found a lump, and a biopsy the following month determined it was a noninvasive cancer called ductal carcinoma in situ, or DCIS. The nine-time Wimbledon women's singles champion had a lumpectomy in March and will start six weeks of radiation therapy next month.

and final season. Tierney "has finished treatment and is doing very well and is happy to move forward with the next phase of her life," said her spokeswoman, Christina Papadopoulos.

Judge denies bail for Jamaica rapper Bounty Killer

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaican dancehall star Bounty Killer has been denied bail while he awaits trial on charges of assaulting his girlfriend. The rapper allegedly struck the woman because she wanted to break up with him. Police said Wednesday in a statement that he later threatened her in a phone call placed while in custody. His attorney, Linda Wright, said he would fight the charges. A trial is scheduled for April 14. Bounty Killer is best known for the album "My Xperience" and for his collaboration on the song "Hey Baby" with U.S. pop band No Doubt. Known offstage as Rodney Price, he has had frequent run-ins with the law. His most recent arrest came Monday.

Roman Polanski attorneys plead to end case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roman Polanski's lawyers have

filed a last legal volley in a California appeals court, saying that the 33-year-old sex case and its lengthy delays have been an assault on the state's judicial system. The attorneys said in papers filed Tuesday that the court should order an investigation of judicial misconduct in Polanski's original case and that the Oscar-winning filmmaker should not have to pay for it—an indication that he is running out of funds. Polanski was arrested six months ago on a fugitive warrant from Los Angeles and is under house arrest in Switzerland. The 76-year-old has mounting debts and no way to earn a living while in custody, his attorneys said. The defense made their latest plea in response to arguments from prosecutors who say Polanski must return from Europe to face sentencing. The defense argued that the director should be sentenced in absentia to time served. The papers were filed in the California 2nd District Court of Appeal.

Ramone to be honored at Songwriters Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Music producer Phil Ramone, who has created hits with Billy Joel and Paul Simon, will receive

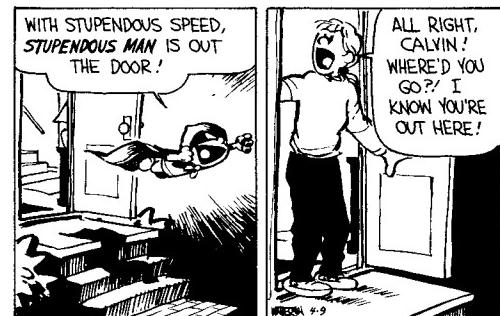
the Howie Richmond Hitmaker Award at the Songwriters Hall of Fame Awards on June 17 in New York. Ramone, a 14-time Grammy Award winner, has also worked with top artists like Ray Charles, Bob Dylan, Frank Sinatra and Bruce Springsteen. Phil Collins will receive the Johnny Mercer Award at the event. Other inductees include Leonard Cohen, Jackie DeShannon, David Foster, Johnny Mandel, Philip Bailey, Verdine White, Larry Dunn, Al McKay and Earth, Wind & Fire's Maurice White. Ramone is also an Emmy winner. His biggest hits include Joel's "Uptown Girl" and "Tell Her About It."

Book of George Carlin writings coming next year

NEW YORK (AP)—A collection of writings and artwork by George Carlin is coming next year, courtesy of the comedian's widow. "The Permanent Courtship of Sally Wade" will be released by Gallery Books, a division of Simon & Schuster. Gallery says the book will be illustrated by Wade and will include notes, letters and postcards by Carlin, who died in 2008 at age 71. Wade and Carlin had been married since 1998.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

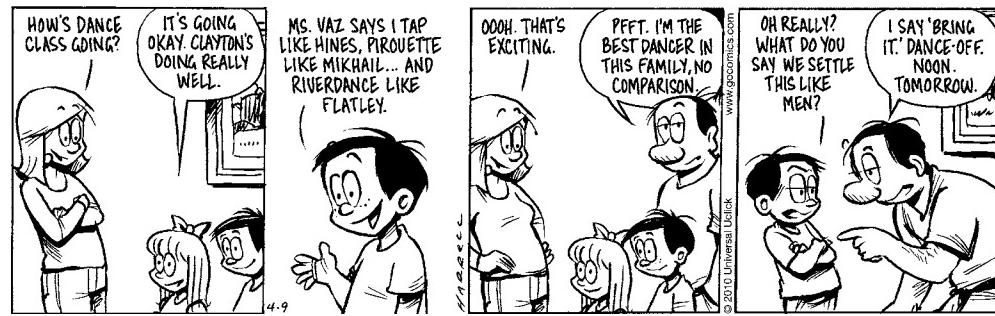


Garfield

By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

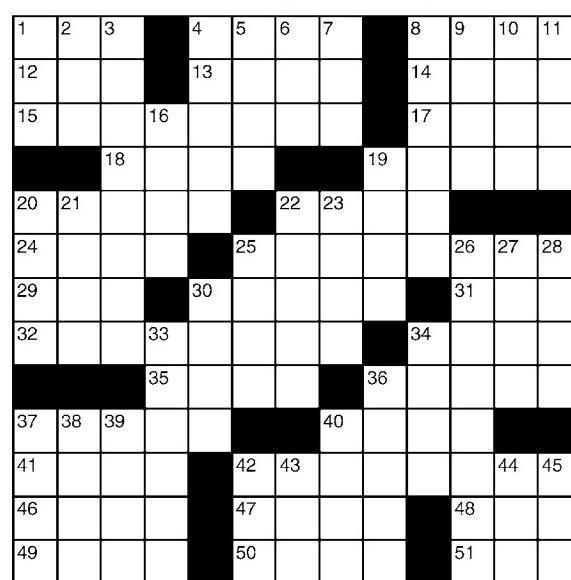
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	32	Remove a stain, one way	DOWN	16	Wading bird
1	Micro-wave	1	Verve	17	Palindromic
4	Venomous vipers	34	Undraped	19	Basket-ball team
8	Tranquil	35	Emcee	20	Take care of
12	Bachelor's last words	36	Pigeons' housing	21	Culture medium
16	Capricorn	37	Plankton components	22	200 milligrams
18	Reed instrument	38	Old foggy	23	"A" — "apple"
19	Battle	39	Beethoven's Fifth, e.g.	24	Dregs
20	Snouted animal	40	Capricorn	25	Hoggishness
22	First born?	41	Old foggy	26	Staffer
24	Hollywood clashers	42	Beethoven's Fifth, e.g.	27	Wit-nesses
25	Strip site	43	Corral	28	Lotion additive
29	A Bobbsey twin	44	Brewery need	29	Talkative
30	Eagle's perch	45	Get wind of	30	Biblical boatwright
31	Whopper	46	Born	31	Coconut meat
		47	Vortex	32	Pinnacle
		48	Sicilian spouter	33	Burden
		49	Sumptuous	34	Top prize
		50	Thither	35	Fed
				36	That woman
				37	Neverthe-less
				38	Modern-ized (Pref.)
				39	Longing

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-9



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kristen Stewart, 20; Leighton Meester, 24; Keshia Knight Pulliam, 31; Cynthia Nixon, 44

Happy Birthday: There are more options than you realize. Consider some of the things you have done in the past and implement them into what you are trying to do now. You will find a way to utilize all your skills to the fullest. Offer help to someone you know has something to give you in return. Your intuition will guide you down a path that will help you gain confidence and greater status. Your numbers are 4, 10, 19, 22, 28, 37, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do something special for someone you are trying to impress. Expect to face jealousy if you present an idea that is well-received by your peers and colleagues. Holding back to spare someone's feelings will not help either one of you. ☀️☀️

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You cannot expect others to do things the same as you. Try new things and visit new places. The knowledge and experience you pick up will help you put a relationship you have with someone into perspective. ☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Give whatever you do your best shot and don't worry about the people who don't appreciate what you have to offer. Resentment will mount if you are in competition with someone. Don't let pettiness stand in your way. ☀️☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep the past where it belongs. Loss, anger and upset will get the better of you if

you dwell on things you cannot change. Look forward with optimism. Change is upon you—embrace it. ☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do not deviate from the truth or someone will question where you got your information. A money matter will be riddled with emotional deception and the possibility of loss. Be upfront about how and what you are doing. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may have to use a bit of force to get your way but, in the end, you will achieve what you set out to do and others will be thankful for your efforts. Don't let the changes someone makes upset your plans. Stay on course. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your savvy, sophisticated way of dealing with others will win favors from acquaintances but may annoy those closest to you. A money matter should be cleared up to ease tension between you and someone you care about. ☀️☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotional troubles will escalate if you haven't been pulling your weight. Find a way to surprise the person who means the most to you. Your vision and will will revive some of the lost charisma you shared. ☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may find it easier to upgrade your skills and pursue a higher position. Overreacting to a situation you are faced with will only make matters worse. A job you had in the past may be perfect for you now. ☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Keep the past where it belongs. Loss, anger and upset will get the better of you if

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you feel a deal being offered isn't right for you, say so. Back away from anyone pushing you to become a partner in a project that doesn't interest you. Put your time, effort and energy into your own projects. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-deception will lead to mistakes. View your life objectively if you want to move in a positive direction. Hanging out with people who are a poor influence will cause confusion and upset the people who love you the most. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may have to check references or do a background check on someone you aren't certain you can trust. Avoid inconsistency. Don't share your plans until you are 100 percent sure you are going to follow through. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are creative and eager to explore new avenues. You are stubborn and intense.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

9			1			6		
	6	4		2				
8	3		4					
			9	3				
5					2			
7	1							
4		2	6					
9		5	1					
7		6			4			

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	3	7	8	6	1	2	9
8	2	9	3	4	1	7	6	5
7	6	1	9	5	2	4	3	8
6	9	4	2	3	7	5	8	1
1	8	7	6	9	5	2	4	3
2	3	5	8	1	4	9	7	6
4	5	2	1	6	3	8	9	7
3	1	8	4	7	9	6	5	2
9	7	6	5	2	8	3	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★

4/09

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GIVE ME A HIGH FIVE!

Solution: 7 letters

E	E	T	A	M	M	A	E	T	G	N	I	M	I	T
T	N	P	A	R	T	N	E	R	D	U	O	L	H	R
A	R	G	N	I	G	N	A	H	U	V	E	A	M	A
R	S	H	A	Y	T	I	S	N	E	T	N	I	M	D
B	E	T	U	G	E	L	J	M	H	D	S	A	T	I
E	T	S	O	M	I	V	E	G	S	S	N	E	O	T
L	E	I	L	F	O	N	I	S	E	N	H	G	I	
E	L	O	T	I	T	R	G	S	U	C	P	C	E	O
C	H	H	S	W	D</td									

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA 10-002)**

OPENING DATE: March 26, 2010

CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as a Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salary maximum is \$70,000, depending on experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail through the Fund Administrator. Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA10-002 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950-1247
E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com


TO ALL VALUED GUESTS - REVISED NOTICE

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

April 5 (Monday) - April 9 (Friday), resume operation April 10 (Saturday)

* Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen delays.

The Lazy River will remain open during this period; however, the Tube Slide going from the Point Break down into the Lazy River will not be available. All other facilities will be in regular operation.

Thank you very much for your understanding.

PIC Management

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TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
www.saipantribune.com

Filibel eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGE 1
\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's signature. PAGE 1
DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE 1

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950


**INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-026**
"Desktop Computers for Saipan Southern High School (SSHS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Desktop Computers for Saipan Southern High School**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Fax request may be sent to 664-3791.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**IFB 10-026**" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 23, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will be not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950


**INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-028**
"Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for CNMI Public School System (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase of **Fire Alarm and Heat Detector Devices for the CNMI Public School System (PSS)**. The Scope of work is available beginning April 9, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax at (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@cnmipss.org

Bids must be placed in a sealed envelope marked "**IFB 10-028**" containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **April 30, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.**, at which time bids, will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will be not be accepted.

This Project is funded through a grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, ED. D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Nelson captures career victories record

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Don Nelson set the NBA career record for victories by a coach in the Golden State Warriors' 116-107 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday.

Nelson won his 1,333rd career game, surpassing Lenny Wilkens to move atop the list.

Stephen Curry had 27 points, 14 assists, eight rebounds and a career-high seven steals, and Anthony Tolliver scored a career-high 34 for the Warriors, who mobbed their 69-year-old coach as the game came to a close.

Kevin Love had 17 points and 18 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who were missing leading scorer Al Jefferson because of personal reasons.

Nuggets 98, Thunder 94

At Oklahoma City, the Denver Nuggets charged back from a 13-point deficit to beat the Oklahoma City Thunder, picking up a crucial road win in their NBA playoff chase.

Chauncey Billups scored 31 points and Carmelo Anthony added 24 as Denver held Oklahoma City without a basket for the final 9 minutes while finishing the game on a 22-5 run.

The Nuggets are chasing the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Thunder's Kevin Durant scored 33 points but missed a shot that would've tied the score in the final 10 seconds. Anthony followed that with two free throws to clinch it with 6.8 seconds left.

Suns 112, Spurs 101

In Phoenix, the hosts stayed tied for second in the Western Conference by dominating San Antonio.

Amare Stoudemire scored 29 points and Jason Richardson added 20 in Phoenix's 11th victory in 12 games.

Roger Mason led six Spurs in double figures with 18 points. San Antonio lost its first game in five to fall into a three-way tie for the West's final three playoff spots.

Rockets 113, Jazz 96

In Houston, Aaron Brooks and Kevin Martin scored 28 points apiece as Houston defeated Utah.

Brooks hit five 3-pointers and has 197 this season, a new franchise record.

Rick Adelman became the 11th coach to reach 900 career victories.

Utah was led by Carlos Boozer's 18 points and 11 rebounds. The Jazz slipped to fifth in the West.

Mavericks 110, Grizzlies 84

In Dallas, Caron Butler scored 23 points and Dirk Nowitzki added 22 points and nine rebounds as Dallas crushed Memphis.

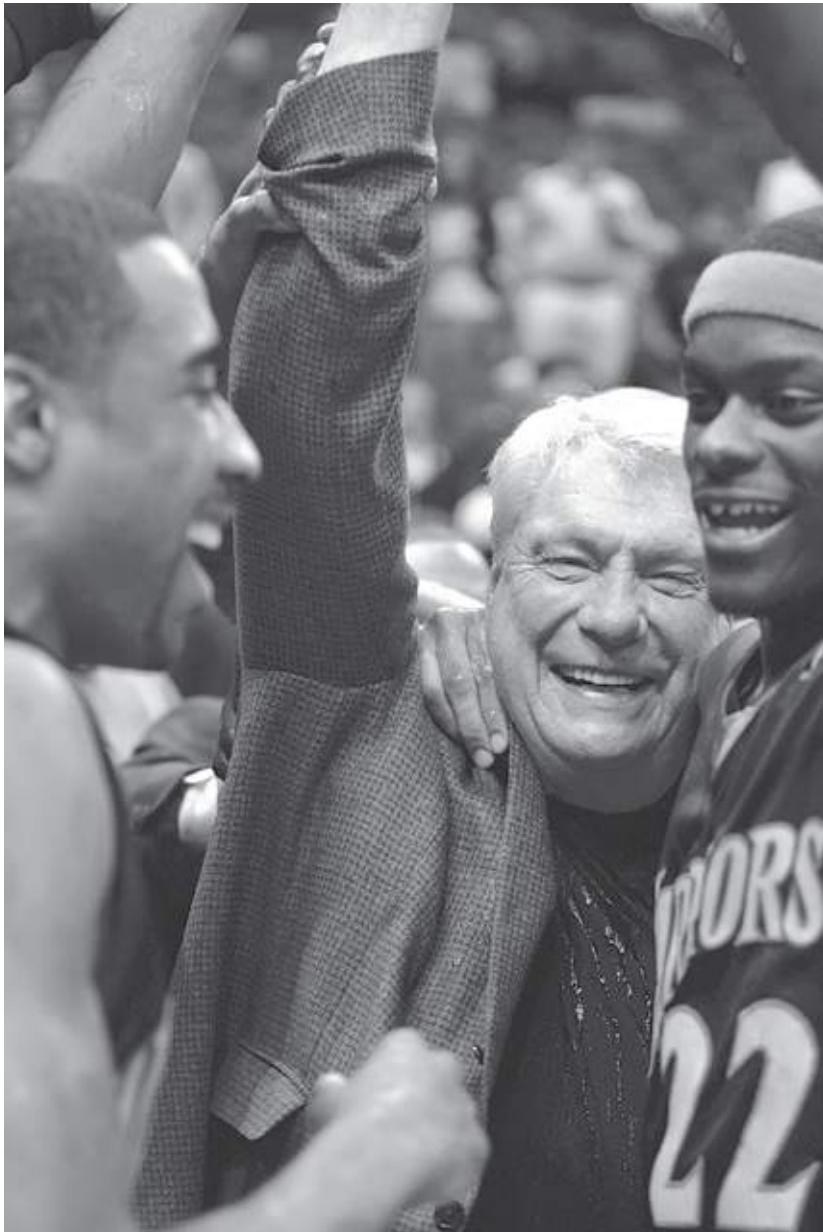
The Mavericks opened a three-game lead atop the Southwest Division and moved into a three-way tie for second place in the West.

Rudy Gay scored 23 points for Memphis, which lost its ninth in a row away at Dallas.

Celtics 115, Raptors 104

In Toronto, Boston capitalized on another injury to a Toronto player.

Following Chris Bosh's facial fracture the previous day, the Raptors lost Hedo Turkoglu in the first quarter Wednesday in a clash of heads that left the Turk with a cut nose and he was



Golden State Warriors coach Don Nelson, center, celebrates with forward Reggie Williams, left, and guard Anthony Morrow (22) after breaking the record for career coaching victories in the Warriors' 116-107 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves in an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 7, 2010, in Minneapolis.

taken to hospital for a scan.

Rajon Rondo scored 21 points and Paul Pierce had 20 as the Celtics won their eighth straight over Toronto, sweeping the series for the second consecutive season.

Sonny Weems scored a career-high 21 for the Raptors.

Magic 121, Wizards 94

In Orlando, Florida, Orlando boosted its chances of home-court advantage in a possible NBA finals series by thrashing Washington.

Dwight Howard had 17 points and 10 rebounds, while J.J. Redick and Michael Pietrus added 16 points apiece.

The Magic moved within a half-game of the West-leading Los Angeles Lakers in overall standings—a crucial stat if Orlando can make it all the way to the finals.

Washington was lead by Nick Young's 21 points.

Bobcats 104, Hornets 103

In New Orleans, Charlotte clinched its first playoff berth since its founding six years ago, pipping New Orleans.

Stephen Jackson scored 29 points and D.J. Augustin hit a crucial 3-pointer with 16 seconds left for the Bobcats.

Charlotte blew a 26-point lead and trailed by as much as eight in the fourth quarter before clawing back, helped in large part by Augustin who hit three 3s in the fourth quarter.

Trail Blazers 93, Clippers 85

In Los Angeles, Portland moved up two

Bucks 108, Nets 89

In Milwaukee, John Salmons scored 22 points on 10-of-13 shooting as Milwaukee beat lowly New Jersey.

Jerry Stackhouse added 18 points for the fifth-place Bucks, who won their

third straight.

Devin Harris scored 18 of his 25 points in the first quarter as New Jersey fell to 11-67, guaranteeing the Nets will finish with at least a share of the worst record in the league.

Wall among 5 Wildcats heading to NBA

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—John Wall and DeMarcus Cousins delivered on their promise to help coach John Calipari return Kentucky to national prominence.

Next stop, the NBA.

The freshman All-Americans are among five Kentucky players who declared for the NBA draft on Wednesday, an exodus that includes freshman guard Eric Bledsoe, freshman center Daniel Orton and junior forward Patrick Patterson.

Wall and Cousins are expected to be among the first few players selected after leading the Wildcats to a remarkable turnaround season in Calipari's first year on the job.

Kentucky went 35-3 this season—Calipari's first as Wildcats coach—winning the Southeastern Conference regular season and conference tournament titles before falling to West Virginia in the regional finals of the NCAA Tournament.

Calipari met with each player individually and encouraged them to gauge their draft prospects.

"It's extremely unusual for four freshmen from the same team to have this opportunity, but it's my job as a coach to prepare these young men for such opportunities," Calipari said.

Players have until May 8 to change their minds, as long as they don't hire agents. It's highly unlikely any of the five players will come back for another season with the Wildcats.

Certainly not Wall, who was the SEC player of the year after averaging 16.6 points, 6.5 assists and 4.3 rebounds while becoming a highlight-reel staple for his breathtaking play in the open floor.

"I'm not the same player as when I arrived at UK," Wall said in a statement. "I believe I'm ready for the next challenge as Derrick Rose and Tyreke Evans were the last two years under Coach Cal."

Calipari said early in the season that Wall was more evolved as a freshman than either Rose and Evans—both of whom starred as point guards for Calipari at Memphis before heading to the NBA.

Wall is a good bet to be the first pick in the draft, the way Rose in 2008.

The 6-foot-4 Wall then spent the next five months largely living up to the hype. He hit a jumper at the buzzer to lift Kentucky to victory over Miami (Ohio) in his first regular season game but did his best to share the spotlight. His 241 assists set a Kentucky single-season record.

Many of those assists came courtesy of baskets by Cousins, the SEC freshman of the year who will likely join Wall as one of the first players drafted. The 6-11, 270-pound center averaged 15.1 points and 9.8 rebounds, numbers that could have been significantly higher if he hadn't struggled with foul trouble and his temper early in the season that severely limited his playing time.

When he was on the floor, Cousins was often the team's most dominant

player and once he learned to control his emotions, he became borderline unstoppable.

"Coach challenged me to grow on and off the court this season," Cousins said. "I believe my game expanded along with my maturity. This year was the most fun I've ever had playing basketball."

It certainly looked like it while the player nicknamed "Boogie" helped Kentucky return to its place among the national elite. The Wildcats won their first 20 games and briefly rose to No. 1 in the polls.

It's a rise that seemed hard for Patterson to fathom during his first two years with the team as the program slumped under former coach Billy Gillispie.

Patterson could have gone to the NBA last spring but opted to stick around to expand his game in Calipari's "dribble-drive" offense while also finishing his degree. He averaged a career-low 14.3 points but became a better shooter and fit in with his less-experienced teammates.

If the departure of Wall, Patterson and Cousins was expected, Bledsoe's and Orton's decision to join their teammates in the draft came as a bit of a surprise.

Bledsoe averaged 11.3 points and proved to be just as fast as Wall in the open floor and an even better long-range shooter. Bledsoe's 49 3-pointers were second on the team and he made eight 3-pointers in a romp over East Tennessee State in the opening round of the NCAAs.

"I never thought I'd be in this position after one year," Bledsoe said. "Coach Cal pushed us all to be the best we could be and he believes I'm prepared to take my game to the next level."

Orton, thought to be a project when he came in, instead became the team's best defender while filling in for Cousins. He averaged a modest 3.4 points and 3.3 rebounds per but also finished among the leaders in the SEC in blocks (53). Orton said going against Patterson and Cousins in practice each day helped him believe he could make it in the NBA.

If they all leave, it leaves Calipari with a rebuilding project on par with the one he inherited a year ago. The departure of Wall and company combined with the graduation of Ramon Harris, Perry Stevenson and Mark Krebs leaves Kentucky with just five players returning next year, only three of whom—guards DeAndre Liggins and Darnell Dodson and forward Darius Miller—played significant minutes this season.

Calipari will try to replace them with another highly ranked recruiting class, though one that will find it difficult to duplicate the magic Wall and company brought to Rupp Arena. The Wildcats already have commitments from center Enes Kanter and Stacey Poole and are considered to be in the mix for a handful of elite recruits, including guard Brandon Knight.

Suzuki hits winner as A's down Mariners



OAKLAND, California

(AP)—Kurt Suzuki hit a walkoff RBI double with one out in the ninth inning to lift the Oakland Athletics to a 6-5 win over the Seattle Mariners in Wednesday's American League action.

Suzuki's seventh career walkoff hit provided a happy ending to a night that began with the return of Justin Duchscherer to the mound. Duchscherer missed all of last season while recovering from elbow surgery and dealing with clinical depression. He pitched into the sixth in his first appearance in nearly 20 months.

With Kevin Kouzmanoff on first with one out in the ninth, Suzuki hit a drive to the wall in left field off Mark Lowe. Milton Bradley reached up to try to make the catch, but the ball appeared to bounce off his glove and Kouzmanoff raced around to score.

Twins 4, Angels 2

In Anaheim, California, Carl Pavano pitched seven sharp innings in his season debut to steer Minnesota past Los Angeles.

Pavano allowed just one run, striking out six without a walk to take the win.

Justin Morneau and J.J. Hardy each homered for the second straight game for the Twins.

Yankees 3, Red Sox 1, 10th inning

In Boston, Curtis Granderson led off the 10th inning with a tiebreaking homer to lift New York over Boston.

Granderson hit an 0-and-1 pitch into the right-field seats against Boston pitcher

Jonathan Papelbon for his second homer in three games with his new team.

Then, after three walks, Mark Teixeira drove in the final run on a ground-out as the Red Sox wasted an outstanding performance by John Lackey, who allowed only three hits in six innings in his first appearance since signing an \$82.5 million, five-year contract.

Royals 3, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Alberto Callaspo hit a tying homer to lead off the bottom of the 11th and pinch runner Willie Bloomquist scored on an error to give Kansas City victory over Detroit.

After Callaspo's shot off Tigers pitcher Jose Valverde, Billy Butler singled and Bloomquist ran for him. He stopped at third on Rick Ankiel's double to right-center, but scampered home when Tigers rookie second baseman Scott Sizemore dropped the relay throw.

Rays 4, Orioles 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Evan Longoria homered and drove in three runs to lead Tampa Bay over Baltimore.

Longoria hit a two-out, two-run double in the fifth to give the Rays a 3-2 lead and added a solo homer in the eighth.

Rays starter Matt Garza allowed two runs over eight innings, striking out nine.

Indians 5, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Cleveland rallied to post their first win under manager Manny Acta.

The Indians scored three runs in the fourth to tie the game, then went ahead in the seventh when Matt LaPorta hit a double that scored Shin-Soo Choo.

Indians pitcher Fausto Carmona allowed one hit over six innings and took the win despite issuing six walks.

Blue Jays 7, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, Vernon Wells homered two more times as Toronto downed Texas.

Wells' tiebreaking two-run homer in the fifth off Texas pitcher Dustin Nippert put Toronto ahead to stay, and he led off the ninth with another drive.

Blue Jays closer Jason Frasor pitched an uneventful ninth after blowing a save on opening day.

Giants 10, Astros 4

In Houston, the San Francisco Giants completed a season-opening three-game sweep of the National League series against Houston, beating the Astros.

Edgar Renteria tied a career high with five hits for the Giants, who have started a season 3-0 for the first time in seven years. Houston last started 0-3 in 2007.

It was 4-4 before San Francisco's Juan Uribe doubled in the eighth inning and scored the go-ahead run when Houston pitcher Sammy Gervacio threw away a bunt. The Giants added another run in the inning, then scored four times in the ninth.

Brewers 5, Rockies 4

In Milwaukee, Jim Edmonds' leadoff single set up a two-run rally in the sixth inning that put Milwaukee ahead to stay against Colorado.

Edmonds, a 39-year-old former All-Star who spent last season out of baseball, made his second start for Milwau-

kee. He went 2 for 4 with a double and scored twice.

Brewers closer Trevor Hoffman earned his 593rd career save.

Diamondbacks 5, Padres 3

In Phoenix, Kelly Johnson hit two of Arizona's four homers, helping the Diamondbacks rally for a win over San Diego.

Johnson connected on the second pitch of the game and added a tying two-run drive in the fifth. Chris Young's homer put Arizona up 4-3 and Justin Upton also went long.

Scott Hairston hit a three-run homer in the second for San Diego.

Phillies 8, Nationals 4

In Washington, Ryan Howard hit a two-run homer and an RBI double in Philadelphia's win over Washington.

Philadelphia starter Cole Hamels labored through five innings to take the win, and hit an RBI single in the fourth that gave the two-time reigning NL champions a 3-2 lead.

Washington tied it before Howard's two-run drive to right-center in the fifth.

Cardinals 6, Reds 3

In Cincinnati, Albert Pujols hit a tie-breaking single in the seventh inning as St. Louis downed Cincinnati.

Matt Holliday followed with a two-run double for the Cardinals.

St. Louis starter Adam Wainwright gave up only three hits in seven innings, including Orlando Cabrera's two-run homer in the bottom of the sixth that tied it at 2-2.

Braves 3, Cubs 2

In Atlanta, Chipper Jones hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the eighth inning and Atlanta held on to edge Chicago.

After 15 consecutive outs for Braves' batters, Martin Prado hit a one-out double before Jones connected for his first homer of the season.

Atlanta reliever Peter Moylan worked around a hit and a walk during a scoreless eighth to take the win.

Pirates 4, Dodgers 3, 10 innings

In Pittsburgh, Ronny Cedeno singled over a drawn-in infield with the bases loaded and one out in the 10th inning, lifting Pittsburgh over Los Angeles.

Prior to Cedeno's hit, the Pirates hadn't scored since Garrett Jones' three-run homer in the first inning.

In the bottom of the 10th, Dodgers reliever Ramon Ortiz walked the bases full, and Cedeno finished off a nine-pitch at-bat with a line-drive single to left.

Marlins 7, Mets 6, 10 innings

In New York, Wes Helms slid home headfirst to barely beat an attempted tag at the plate, giving Florida a tight win over New York.

Helms dashed for home on Ronny Paulino's single, and his hand swiped the plate just ahead of a sweeping attempted tag by Mets catcher Rod Barajas.

Florida pitcher Leo Nunez walked in a run and balked in the tying score over 1 1-3 innings, but came away with the win in the 4 hour, 12 minute game.

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Rangers inch closer to regular season sweep

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

 The St. Michael Rangers moved two wins away from sweeping the regular season of the 2010 Saipan Major League, following a 16-7 triumph against D-9ers on Wednesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The victory was the sixth in as many games for the defend-

ing champions, who need only one win to secure the pennant in the double-elimination league, as their closest pursuer (Brewers) had already dropped two games.

Elton Santos started on the mound for the Rangers, pitched for five innings, gave up only two runs, and struck out eight.

On offense, the Rangers were on target in the second and fifth inning, making six and four runs, respectively to take a 14-2

lead after five complete innings. D-9ers scored four in the last four innings, but these were not enough to prevent the Rangers from keeping their clean slate in the five-team league.

Left fielder Juan Iguel went only 2-for-4 at the plate, but made three RBIs, including a two-run fly ball to centerfield at the top of the second inning. Catcher Pat Alepuyo, centerfielder Clifton Sillil, and first baseman Benwachi Taisacan

added two RBIs each.

Tyrone Omar was 4-for-4 at bat and also scored four runs

before Craig Sanchez relieved him in the seventh inning.

Cris Camacho and Bob Liza-

ma led D-9ers' losing cause, hitting two RBIs each. The D-9ers remained winless in six games.

ry Guerrero at 256-1052.

RGA qualifier tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, April 11, at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Slots will be open to as many as 24 players with the check in time set at 9am tee time hour later at 10am.

The winner of the April tournament will join early qualifiers for the year-end Ace of Aces Tournament—Vince Deleon Guerrero Rosario (January), Edward Sablan (March), and Mariano Fajardo (April).

For more information about SGA tournaments, contact Lar-

ron 21, Garon 18, Sarmiento 12, Obnimaga 3, Maratita 2.

Hard Rock 77 — Paraiso 33, Tengco 14, Tiamzon 12, Be-smonte 5, Nunag 4, Mendoza 3, Lagrio 2, Aranda 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 30-32, 50-56, 78-77.

Second Game

Bank of Guam 108 — Qui-tugua 30, Coldeen 25, Taisacan 21, D. Palacios 11, Pelisamen 8, G. Palacios 6, Mendiola 5, Martinez 2.

Shirley's 96 — Peredo 45, Se-dillo 18, Guiab 12, Opone 11, Pavlo 6, Nicdao 2, Laxa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 33-42, 68-71, 108-96.

PEPSI

From Page 36

pulled up for a fall-away jumper against one Hard Rock defender, who was a bit late in stepping up on defense. Lansang fell on the floor, as he was not really squared off for the shot and sprained his foot. However, no amount of pain could prevent Lansang from celebrating with his teammates after he made the dagger that foiled Hard Rock's bid for a first win in the season. Lansang's game-winning

jumper was one of the two clutch baskets he hit in the homestretch. The first one came when Hard Rock's defense was also napping. Paraiso made an undergoal stab and tied the game, 73-all, but Hard Rock forgot to go back to transition defense, leaving Lansang open for a fastbreak basket.

Hard Rock had a chance to even the match, anew, but Armando Lagrio muffed his two free throws off a Francis Sarmiento foul with 16 seconds remaining in the game. Pepsi got the possession after Lagrio's

miss and sued for time

Garon inbounded the ball from the sideline at midcourt, was pressured, and committed an error when his pass to Lansang was intercepted by Jomar Tengco, who went all the way for a fastbreak layup to tie the match, 75-all, 12 ticks to go in the game.

Pepsi grabbed the lead, 76-75, when Obnimaga was fouled and split his charities. After Obnimaga's missed second free throw, Paraiso collared the rebound and drew a foul from the former.

Paraiso canned both charities, but Hard Rock still had tough luck when Garon and Lansang teamed up for a clutch play. Pepsi improved to a 3-5 record, while Hard Rock dropped to a 0-11 slate.

In the second game, Bank of Guam moved up from seventh to a tie for fifth place, following a come-from-behind 108-96 win over Shirley's.

BoG trailed by 10 at the break, 33-43, before Jeff Quitugua, Bobby Coldeen, and Jason Taisacan led the team's recovery in the second half to improve to

an even 4-4 record.

Quitugua, who was held to eight points in the first half, had 22 in the second, while Taisacan drilled 15 of his 21 markers in the last 20 minutes of the match. Coldeen finished with 25 markers, making 16 in the second half.

BoG was still behind at the end of the third, 68-71, before the trio of Quitugua, Coldeen, and Taisacan stole the upper hand and the win in the fourth period. The trio combined for 25 of BoG's 31 points in the fourth canto.

EX-PRO

From Page 36

Taitano, Dave Camacho, and Jay Kintol," Igital added.

Brown, who visited Saipan in 2006 and held similar clinics for players and coaches, will be holding training sessions with CNMI players hoping to get

slots on the Commonwealth's baseball team to the Micronesian Games.

The former professional pitcher will be conducting a series of clinics for Saipan Little League Baseball players at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The April 12 to 17 sessions are for Junior Leaguers, while players in the

Senior League will have their turn from April 19 to 24. From April 26 to 30, Brown will be holding sessions for Big Leaguers. All sessions will run from 3pm to 5:30pm.

Next month, Brown will visit Tinian to hold similar clinics from May 3 to 8. He is also scheduled to lead a refresher course for umpires and coaches

both on Saipan and Tinian with BCO certified umpire/coach Tony Rogolofoi assisting him.

From the CNMI, Brown will return to BCO's headquarters in Australia and then fly to Guam in June to spearhead a 10-day baseball academy where the Commonwealth is expected to send at least six youth players to the training camp.

YOUTH

From Page 36

providing direction to the team rather than her offense.

The Marianas High School sophomore did a great job setting up her teammates and controlling the tempo of the game to help the MISO All-Stars avenge their finals loss against Settsu last year.

Besides her heroics in the basketball court, Rangamar also did well in the 2010 Oceania Under 18 Area Championships in Australia last month. Rangamar was one of the three CNMI bets who went to the Land Down Under to compete

against other regional bets and the host's top junior athletes.

The 16-year-old submitted 32.90m in the javelin throw and broke her own CNMI junior record, a few meters away from the CNMI National record of 34.68m.

"It was tough competing in Australia against those bunch of older and bigger junior athletes. At first, I was saying to myself 'How am I going to go up against them, how will I fare with them,'" Rangamar said. "However, after a while I get used to it and just showed my best."

After the tournament in Australia, Rangamar returned to Saipan and switched from track to the basketball court and outshone

several Japanese players and other cagebelles on the island.

Rangamar said she was not expecting to win the March award, as it was "March Madness" on Saipan and a lot of events were going on and a lot of athletes had impressive performance in their respective sports. Last month, the CNMI hosted XTERRA Saipan, Tagaman, Saipan Marathon, the regular youth soccer league, and a tennis tournament. A group of swimmers also went off-island and competed in Japan.

"I was surprised to hear that I won and I am honored to be recognized," said Rangamar, who accepted her medal from Tan Siu Lin foundation manager Ed

Arriola on Wednesday at the TSL Plaza in Garapan.

Also getting a medal was Maratita, who helped the MISO All-Stars downed the COPSSA All-Stars in boys U17 finals of the Settsu-Saipan caging, 77-74.

Maratita was the consistent double figure scorer for the MISO All-Stars, leading the team to victories against Settsu and Saipan Southern High School.

He too was not expecting the recognition, as he just wanted to play and help his team.

"Thank you to Tan Siu Lin and NMASA. Awards like this inspire us athletes to do well not only in sports also in school," said Maratita.

FOUL

From Page 36

go a hundred games and more without getting one. Imagine then the surprise at getting conked by one accidentally. Call it your lucky day!

Once at Safeco Field in Seattle, I was sitting four rows from the field behind first base. A right-handed batter hit a wicked liner in my direction. The lady in front of me was paying no attention and talking to the person next to her. At the last instant, the spectator in front of her put his glove up and caught the ball. If he hadn't done that the ball would have hit the woman on the side of her head, and

could have seriously hurt her, even possibly kill her. It would have been nobody's fault except her own.

Last week Denard Span of the Minnesota Twins defied odds by hitting a foul ball that struck his mother in the chest. If he wanted her to have a ball, he should have just handed her one. Of course, it was not intentional. Batters are not trying to hit foul balls; they are trying to hit fair balls.

Span is a left-handed batter. He lined a foul ball near the dugout on the third base side. In that particular case, the ball was hit too hard for his mom to get out of the way in time and she was not wearing a glove. She was sitting next to the field without a

net to protect her, a particularly dangerous place that requires game-time attention.

Span's foul ball made the national headlines and was featured on ESPN's SportsCenter. But it wasn't the first time someone's mother got whacked by a foul.

Philadelphia Phillie Richie Ashburn once hit a foul ball that conked the wife of a newspaper sports editor, breaking her nose and shaking her up enough that she had to be carried off on a stretcher. Ashburn got back into the batter's box and promptly fouled off another pitch that hit the poor lady as she was being carried away. More people have been hit twice by lightning than hit twice by a foul ball in the

same game (at least that's what I think not having the statistics on hand, but I have heard of people struck by lightning more than once).

Span's wayward foul sparked the story of Bob Feller when he was pitching for the Indians. Actually, he reminded people. For the record, Bob Feller, a Hall of Famer, wrote in his autobiography that he met Richard Nixon on a beach during the Battle of Saipan in World War II. Nice story, except Richard Nixon never was on Saipan. Anyway back to the point. Feller was pitching against the White Sox. A batter fouled off a pitch that struck a woman in her head.

The woman was Feller's mother. It was Mother's Day.

 Saipan Golf Association will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, April 11, at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The winner of the April tournament will join early qualifiers for the year-end Ace of Aces Tournament—Vince Deleon Guerrero Rosario (January), Edward Sablan (March), and Mariano Fajardo (April).

For more information about SGA tournaments, contact Lar-

maled D-9ers' losing cause, hitting two RBIs each. The D-9ers remained winless in six games.

ry Guerrero at 256-1052.

RGA qualifier tomorrow

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will hold its April Ace of the Month Tournament this Sunday, April 11, at the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Slots will be open to as many as 24 players with the check in time set at 9am tee time hour later at 10am.

The winner of the April tournament will join early qualifiers for the year-end Ace of Aces Tournament—Vince Deleon Guerrero Rosario (January), Edward Sablan (March), and Mariano Fajardo (April).

For more information about SGA tournaments, contact Lar-

ron 21, Garon 18, Sarmiento 12, Obnimaga 3, Maratita 2.

Hard Rock 77 — Paraiso 33, Tengco 14, Tiamzon 12, Be-smonte 5, Nunag 4, Mendoza 3, Lagrio 2, Aranda 2, Sablan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-20, 30-32, 50-56, 78-77.

Second Game

Bank of Guam 108 — Qui-tugua 30, Coldeen 25, Taisacan 21, D. Palacios 11, Pelisamen 8, G. Palacios 6, Mendiola 5, Martinez 2.

Shirley's 96 — Peredo 45, Se-dillo 18, Guiab 12, Opone 11, Pavlo 6, Nicdao 2, Laxa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-13, 33-42, 68-71, 108-96.

First Game

Pepsi 78 — Lansang 22, Lau-

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	49	29	.628	—
Toronto	38	40	.487	11
New York	28	50	.359	21
Philadelphia	26	52	.333	23
New Jersey	11	67	.141	38

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	55	23	.705	—

Mieko to hold bike race fundraiser

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Micronesian Games-bound Mieko Carey will be holding a bike race on April 25 to raise funds for her participation in the quadrennial meet in Palau in August this year.

Carey is one of the four triathletes Saipan Adventure Sports Club selected to represent the Commonwealth in the 2010 Micronesian Games set for Aug. 1 to 10. Carey was a shoo-in for the CNMI Triathlon Team, as no other female triathlete had expressed interest in competing in Palau. The male members of the team—Kieran Daly, Matthew Mancao, and Lewie Tenorio, alternate Joshua Manglona—were selected through a qualifying tournament (2010 Tagaman Triathlon).

"I am glad to be a representative of Saipan. I am excited to race with other island athletes I never met. The Micro Games will give me chance to meet other great athletes. I will have fun at the race and I will do my best as a representative of

Mieko Carey, seen here cooling off after a bike race, is calling all bikers to join her fundraising race for the 2010 Micronesian Games.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Saipan," Carey said.

She is hoping the sports community will help her in her campaign in the triathlon competition in the Micro Games through bikers' participation in the fundraiser.

"I will host a fundraising race on April 25 and would like to ask for Saipan bikers' help. There will be three courses, so any biker can join, as we have a course for kids, beginners, and experts," Carey said.

The long course will take riders to Paupau, Banzai trail, Grotto trail, Autobahn, Kimikaze, back side golf course in Marpi and back to Paupau. The short course will be from Paupau to Banzai, Grotto trail and turn right to ride on the road and back to Paupau. The kids course will be around the Paupau parking lot.

"Please mark your calendars on April 25, Sunday, and join me in this fundraiser. Your assistance will be very much appreciated," Carey said.

Entry fee is only \$10, regardless of which course one chooses. Interested participants must wear helmets. Registration will run from 6:30am to 6:55am, while race will begin at 7am.

For more information, contact Carey at miekoko38@yahoo.com.

GEAR sure to challenge the toughest off-road athletes

GEAR

YONA, GUAM—Are you tough enough? That simple question started it all. The concept was easy—take a team of two or four athletes and pit them against the most challenging course on Guam possible.

Guam contains diversity like few places on earth for such a small landmass—towering limestone cliffs, coral outcroppings, volcanic clay, jungle rivers, savannahs, and mountains can make it as beautiful as it is difficult.

The Guam Extreme Adventure Race—GEAR—disciplines include trekking, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming, orienteering, and teamwork.

GEAR 10 is set for May 30, 2010 starting at 4am—the start location will be announced to participants at the mandatory race briefing and GEAR check on May 29 at 2:30pm.

Registration is now open with online registration available at www.guamextreme.com or registration forms can be picked up at Hornet Sports in Tamuning.

Early bird registration deadline is April 30 and registration will close on May 14. A meeting for interested racers will be held on April 21 at 7pm for a race overview and Q&A session.

This adventure race follows the basic disciplines of adventure racing in the 24-hour format: mountain biking, kayaking (ocean and river), navigation, trekking, coasteering or stay-

and has passed sections before cut-off times.

The course will be kept secret until race morning. The starting line and first race discipline will be released to teams at the pre-race briefing the day before the event. The official GEAR race maps will be given to teams at check-in on race morning one (1) hour before race start.

"Athletes from around Asia will be challenged by one of the most incredibly beautiful courses yet designed as we enter our tenth year," said GEAR race director, James Oelke. "We welcome all racers to and from Guam. It is a unique island with a variety of different terrains that will have to be traversed as a four person team in a race format; yet their real competition will be from the climate and the running clock."

GEAR believes in "race without trace" principles. Any team or their support crew found littering will be pulled out of the race immediately. No matter how small your trash is—it still effects the environment we race in and island upon which we live—DO NOT LITTER!

No cigarette butts, GU wrappers, plastic rings from around the neck of water or sports drinks bottles, nothing stays on the ground. Leave Guam cleaner than you found it. If you are interested in being a volunteer on race day, please contact James Oelke at 483-9453 or 4oelke@gmail.com. (PR)

Settsu donates equipment to BANMI



The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands received donations from Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club of Osaka, Japan at the conclusion of the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament late last month.

Head coach Susumu Sakaguchi, who is also a director of the SRI Basketball Club, led the presentation of donated goods to all tournament participants, coaches, and volunteers as a sign of strengthening the friendship between the CNMI and Japan. It also meant boosting the sports tourism relationship BANMI and Settsu.

All tournament players and coaches, as well as the volunteers received souvenir towels specially made in Japan, but it was all the basketball equipment, which Sakaguchi presented that surprised everyone.

As a gift (omiae in Japanese) of appreciation, each team was given a men's and women's Molten official GL7 and GL6 basketball—the official basketball approved by the Japan Basketball Association (JBA) and FIBA, the international governing body of basketball.

"It's a great gift! We can use it for the teams. We will most likely use it for practices and stuff," said coach Jose Tuamaquip, who steered the MISO Girls All-Stars to a win in the U15 finals against Settsu.

Sakaguchi also handed to BANMI board member Abner Venus and tournament coordinator Gabriel White a number of essential basketball items and high-tech equipment manufactured by Molten, Inc. of Japan. These include five sets of game vests, ball bags, and a state-of-the-art portable scoreboard/timer and 24-second shot clocks.

"With this equipment,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Settsu Red Impulse assistant coach Yoshihiro Kinoshita, girls head coach Toshiya Kurohara, BANMI tournament coordinator Gabriel White, and SRI director/boys head coach Susumu Sakaguchi pose for a group photo with the equipment Settsu donated to BANMI.

BANMI can help the basketball community to run leagues and tournaments outdoors in the villages. This is what we have been working toward for a long time and we will make this available to basketball groups in the CNMI," Venus said.

"BANMI cannot thank Mr. Sakaguchi and the Settsu Red Impulse Basketball Club enough for this awesome equipment. BANMI put on another great international tournament with the help and support of so many, but this time for age groups, as an incentive for our young development players and especially for our wonderful visitors from Japan. We are very fortunate to be given these gifts and BANMI will make good use of them," White said.

Besides the Settsu Red Impulse, BANMI would also like to thank the following for

making last month's basketball tournament a success: Yoshihiro Kishimoto and the management and staff of the Gentle Brook Café, Marianas Visitors Authority, Tan Holdings, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Dickerson & Quinn Saipan Co., Ltd., Cosmos Distributing Co. Saipan, Ltd., Coca-Cola Beverage Co., Micronesia Inc., Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc., Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, Budget Rent A Car, Big Boyz Marine Sports, Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Jim & Kathryn Barry, Mr. & Mrs. Alex & Nora Sablan, Marianas High School & MHS Productions, DCCA Division of Sports & Recreation, Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization (MISO), Coalition of Private Schools Sports Association (COPSSA), and CNMI Youth Congress. (BANMI)

there are at least 10 entries.

Youth bowlers (12 to 19 years old), meanwhile, will duke it out in the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes Tenpin Bowling Tournament in Day 1 of the monthly competition. Entry fee is \$10 for the Fiji Water Prince and Princess of the Lanes.

Youth bowlers must also pay the annual SBA youth membership fee of \$10 if they wish to qualify for the annual roll off. The Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament aims to crown 12 monthly champions through the course of the year.

For early registration and payment, see or contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pticom.com. (PR)

April roll-off Sunday and Monday

Participants limited to the first 60 entries for each day.

Members have the option to bowl on the Sunday or Monday, or on both days, provided that the \$15 entry fee is paid. Bowlers who did not bowl on Sunday will be given priority for the Monday shift. Only the higher score will count for the tournament. All participants have to pay the \$15 SBA annual membership fee.

The champion is guaranteed \$100 in prize money but it could go up to as much \$150 depending on the number of participants. Women participants will only have separate prizes if

The 2010 April Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes and April Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes continues this Sunday, April 11, and Monday, April 12, at the Capital Bowling Center in Garapan.

Sunday's roll-off begins at 4pm while Monday's competition starts at 6pm. Registration starts 30 minutes prior to game time. Awarding ceremonies immediately follow the end of competition on Monday.

The competition is exclusive for members of the Saipan Bowling Association with par-





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Saipan Tribune Sports

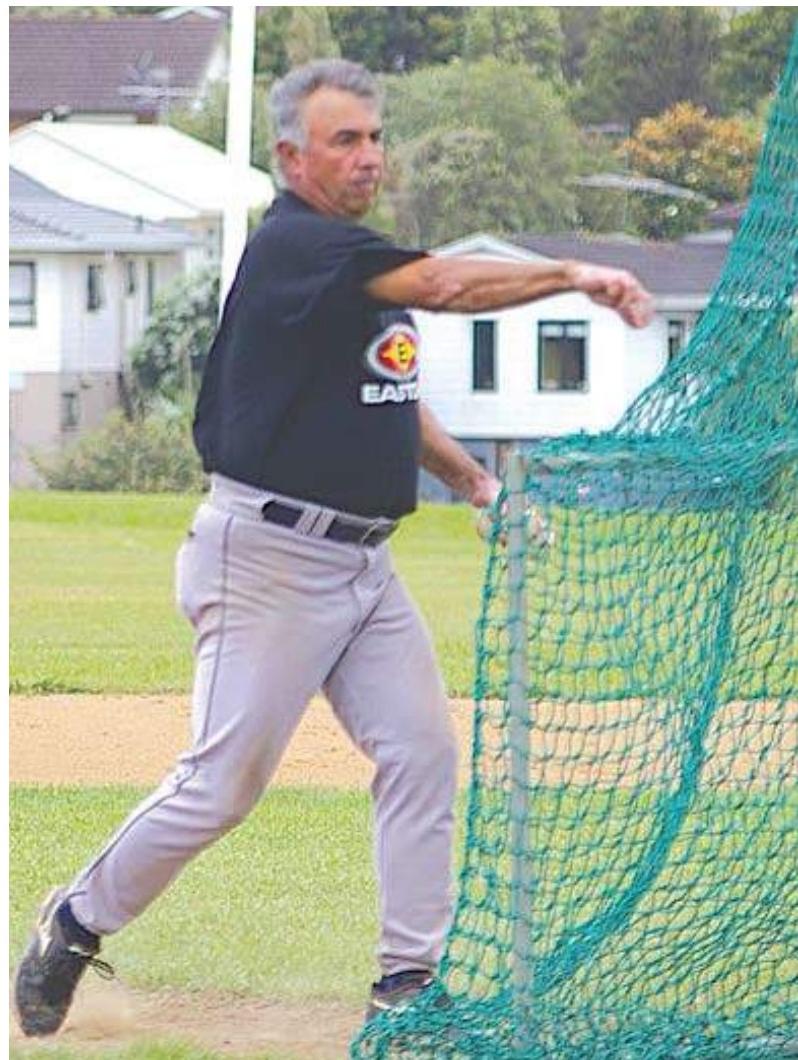


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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pepsi squeezes out win over Hard Rock

Ex-pro baseball scout to hold clinics in CNMI



WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM
Baseball Confederation of Oceania development officer Ray Brown is seen here visiting a field in Fiji in 2007. Brown will arrive on Saipan this Sunday and will be here for about a month to conduct clinics for players and coaches.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI will have another visitor sharing his expertise to the sports community this month.

Saipan Major League's Rose Igitol said former San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners scout Ray Brown will be in the Commonwealth to conduct clinics for players, coaches, and umpires.

Brown, who is also the Baseball Confederation of Oceania development officer, will arrive on Saipan this Sunday, one day ahead of another Saipan visitor—Kevin Smith of Basketball New Zealand. Brown will start his busy schedule on Monday, meeting the islands' youth sluggers.

See EX-PRO on Page 34



Foul balls

If you go to Palacios Baseball Field and a foul ball breaks your car windshield, you should:

- A) cry foul
- B) laugh like crazy
- C) call the police
- D) sue somebody
- E) next time, park farther away

The correct answer is E of course. Foul balls are to be expected at baseball games and people should exercise due caution.

Courts in the States have consistently ruled that baseball teams and officials are not liable for accidents arising out of foul balls. Actually there haven't been that many cases as most people realize that errant balls flying around the ballpark comes with the game. A judge has more important things to do than to hear a caterwaul over a hardball.

Catching a foul ball game at a major league game is something to be treasured. It's actually quite difficult and improbable. One can

See FOUL on Page 34

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Erлан Lansang canned a buzzer-beating jumper from the baseline to lift Pepsi to a thrilling 78-77 win over Hard Rock Café during the curtain raiser in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

Lansang's game-winning shot came after Hard Rock celebrated early, following Alvin Paraiso's pair of free throws that gave the team a 77-76 lead with two seconds left on the clock.

Paraiso gave Hard Rock its last taste of the lead when he drew a foul from Ian Obnimaga after a rebound play from Pepsi's frontcourt. Paraiso calmly sank the first charity with the ball hitting nothing but the net to tie the game, 76-all. His second free throw appeared to roll out first before rolling in, giving Hard Rock the lead, 77-76, and prompting most of Paraiso's teammates on the court to celebrate prematurely.

Busy celebrating, Hard Rock defenders forgot there were two seconds left in the game. Pepsi's Jojo Garon did the inbound and threw a long pass to Lansang, who was streaking to their frontcourt.

Garon made a perfect pass, Lansang made a perfect catch, and the latter

See PEPSI on Page 34

Youth cagers prevail in 'March Madness'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ATHLETES of the MONTH
Of the youth athletes who competed in various tournaments held during the "March Madness" on Saipan, basketball's Lia Rangamar and Juan Maratita stood tall and were awarded the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athletes of the Month plums.

Rangamar was cited for leading the MISO All-Stars to the championship against the Settsu Red Impulse in the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament. She scored 21 points in the MISO All-Stars' 75-54 thrashing of the Japanese cagebelles, but Rangamar was more instrumental in

See YOUTH on Page 34



Pepsi's Jojo Garon tries to recover a loose ball against Hard Rock's Jomar Tengco during their game in the Shirley's caging on Wednesday at the JP Center Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Lia Rangamar, left, and Juan Maratita show the medal awarded to them for winning the NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athletes of the Month (March) during the presentation at the TSL Plaza in Garapan on Wednesday. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

